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Feel power of exercising your democratic right

IF EVER you doubted the power of your vote, then look no further than this week's election results.

In the space of 15 hours of voting on Thursday, the political landscape in this country was completely redrawn.

Where just days before Ed Miliband, Nick Clegg and even Nigel Farage had spoken confidently of playing a key role in the next Government, by the time Friday morning bid us farewell, all three had resigned.

Meanwhile, David Cameron - thought by many to be living on borrowed time - delivered what even his staunchest of supporters felt was mission impossible; a Tory majority. All that talk of coalition, all those polls - they all disappeared courtesy of decisions you made at the ballot box.

In this special edition, inside you will see exactly what your vote did in your constituency. We have every single result from every single Kent constituency - plus special focus pieces on what the results mean, and those vital battlegrounds of Rochester and South Thanet.

What's more, our local councils saw major changes too. The majority of them were still being counted when KoS went to press (and we'll have the full results and reaction to those next week).

So next time there is an election, never think your vote cannot make a difference. You literally have in your power the opportunity to make or break even the most senior politician's careers.

And that realisation is a truly empowering sensation.

You may well have woken on Friday in delight or despair, but the people have spoken. You have spoken.

Enjoy this special edition and let us know your views on the result.



Editor **Chris Britcher**

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Tidal wave of blue hits county as Tories storm it

By Chris Britcher
chris.britcher@archant.co.uk



COUNT: The votes are in, counted and announced...and Kent is completely blue

IT WAS ultimately a result which stunned all the pundits and pollsters but after the dust had settled on the county's trip to the polls, Kent's political landscape was barely altered.

While the Conservatives swept back into Downing Street with a majority all of their own making, the county was left dominated by David Cameron's party. Not one other party could break the broad blue strokes.

And, as has been the case in recent European and county council elections, it was Ukip which generated all the major headlines – although for contrasting reasons. Its vote, across the county, was up dramatically on 2010, delivering second place finishes in a host of seats.

But the first-past-the-post electoral system saw them emerge empty-handed in Kent. They lost Rochester and Strood and failed to capture top target South Thanet.

Yet it was leader Nigel Farage's defeat in the Thanet seat which prompted one of the biggest news stories, as he delivered on his promise to step down as leader (see page 12).

Former MP Paul Clark's bid to reclaim the Gillingham seat he once held for Labour from former colleague saw Tory Rehman Chishti instead sweep him aside once more.

Labour's misery was compounded by only the most modest of gains – and nothing of a size or scale that was ever going to threaten the sitting Tory member.

Meanwhile, the Liberal Democrats saw their vote decimated - struggling in many Kent seats to cling to a top third position. Jasper Gerard's long-running desire to claim Helen Grant's scalp and her Maidstone and the Weald seat disappearing with a hefty defeat.

Local council elections, held simultaneously in many areas across the county, continued to be counted as we went to press – many having to wait until after the Westminster votes had been counted, and staff catch a little sleep, before the ballot boxes started to be added up for each candidate.

Preliminary results would suggest the Conservatives performing well and Ukip securing a host of seats too (see our website for latest results across the weekend, see story bottom right). Labour and the Lib Dems, once again, are likely to be left licking their wounds.

Conservative and Ukip eye big gains too in county's council polls

WHILE the national spotlight was fixed on this year's general election, local elections were also taking place across the county, with hundreds of seats up for grabs in all the district and borough councils across Kent.

The councils that held elections on May 7 were Ashford, Thanet, Tonbridge and Malling, Canterbury, Maidstone, Dartford, Tunbridge Wells, Gravesham, Dover, Sevenoaks, Medway, Sittingbourne and Shepway.

On many of the councils all seats were up for grabs, on others just a third of councillors were up for election- such as Maidstone.

Besides Thanet and Gravesham, the councils are Conservative controlled and are likely to stay that way - perhaps with a dash of purple.

The Conservatives retained their control of both Dover District Council and Canterbury City Council.

In Canterbury, three Conservative councillors that were elected to Heron ward in Herne Bay - Andrew Cook, Joe Howes and David Thomas- provided the necessary seats for the party to keep their majority control after the count began.

At the time KoS went to press, two Ukip councillors had been elected to Canterbury seats - with Geoff Wimble winning a seat in West Bay ward and David Hirst winning Greenhill ward.

The Dover council results were counted overnight along with the parliamentary votes, and announced on Friday morning.

The Conservatives kept their majority on the council, with the council now made up of 25 Conservatives, 17 Labour and three Ukip councillors.

Nigel Farage, who stepped down as Ukip leader after he lost in Thanet South, said that Ukip had done well during council elections in the past, and that he was hopeful they would do well again.

View kentnews.co.uk for updates on the results.

Ukip make gains in Dover after scooping three seats

UKIP has made gains in Dover after claiming three seats in the local elections held on May 7.

The Conservatives remain the majority party, with the council now made up of 25 Conservatives, 17 Labour councillors and three Ukip members. Both the Conservatives and Labour lost one of their seats to Ukip.

Ukip candidate Georgette Rapley was elected to Town & Pier ward, Ben Glayzer was elected for the Tower Hamlets ward and Andrew Richardson was chosen as Ukip councillor for Maxton, Elms Vale & Priory ward - a seat previously held by Conservative Roger Walkden. ''He will be sadly missed, he served the public well,'' said Conservative leader of the council, Paul Watkins.

For the latest council results see www.kentnews.co.uk

AS the count for the local council elections stretched into the early hours of Saturday morning in many areas, you can keep up-to-date with all the latest results on our website www.kentnews.co.uk.

In addition to all the latest, breaking election news, the site will enable you to keep up-to-date with results which came in after we went to press.

Our website also has a comprehensive breakdown of all the Westminster results so far and comparisons to the 2010 results so you can see just how the political landscape has changed since we last all went to the polls.

To find the online coverage, simply visit www.kentnews.co.uk.

And turn to page 12 for results from all our Westminster constituencies.

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seven days

Stories which made the headlines **@kentnews.co.uk** during the past week

PCC's condolences following Nepal earthquake

POLICE and crime commissioner Ann Barnes has written to the county's Nepalese community to offer her condolences following the devastating earthquake two weeks ago.

The quake claimed thousands of lives and left many homeless. Kent has a strong Nepalese community - primarily through Gurkha families who have settled near previous Army bases.

Mrs Barnes said: ''I live in the Folkestone area – the home of many serving and retired Gurkhas – so I personally know just how much members of the Nepalese community contribute to our local area. But, now, it is our turn to help them, so please do so if you can.'' To donate visit www.mncuk.org.uk.

Anger over proposals to amalgamate east Kent's A&E departments to one

By Jamie Weir
jamie.weir@archant.co.uk

CAMPAIGNERS have branded proposals to slim down accident and emergency (A&E) departments in east Kent, to just one as "madness".

The plans proposed by health trust chiefs would see the three A&Es in the area – currently sited at the QEQM in Margate, William Harvey in Ashford and the Kent and Canterbury cut to just one centralised department.

The likely site for the solitary A&E would be Canterbury – ideally within a relocated site for the hospital.

East Kent Hospital University Foundation NHS Trust, which runs all the three sites, are behind the plans. Its interim chief executive, Chris Bown told KoS that currently, the proposals were nothing more than that.

He said: "We are open to debate and are currently engaging staff and external partners, including the public, in developing a five to 10 year clinical strategy. We are considering the clinical viability of how services are delivered in the future and are considering a number of options to establish their clinical and financial feasibility.



MOVE?: Canterbury's A&E

"One option includes a high risk and emergency hospital supported by base hospitals but no final decision has been made.

"We expect to clarify the options and undertake a public consultation later this year."

This, according to Simon Bolton, who represents the union Unison in Kent, is unlikely.

He said: "The public consultation is nothing more than a sham; the decision has already been made.

"These plans are nothing more than a cut, and a dangerous one at that. Under the proposals, people needing treatment will have to travel significant distances, which could place them in danger. It's madness - you couldn't make something like this up in Hollywood.

"People are going to be able to see the timing for what it is; a plan to bury bad news until after MPs have taken their seats.

"Four years ago this trust was a good performer, but now, after the coalition government they're in special measures."



NEW: Julia Haynes is behind the app

App launches to help mums with newborns

A FREE smartphone and tablet app has been launched to help parents with their new-born babies.

The free app, called Born to Move, gives advice to new parents and carers on every stage from newborn, crawler and toddler to pre-school.

It's the brainchild of Julia Haynes, a health visitor at Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust, who has worked extensively with health visitors, children's centre staff and local parents on its development.

The app – the first of its kind in Kent and available for both Android and Apple devices – can be personalised with a picture of the user's baby and includes advice as well as games for improving life skills from birth until a child is five years old.

Phil Edbrooke-Childs, managing director of Kent and Medway Health Information Service, said: "We're delighted to have been involved in this exciting project. Mobile apps will play a significant role in healthcare going forward as in today's fast pace of life most people turn to their mobile devices for an answer, which is why we wanted to develop a fun and educational app for busy mums, dads and carers. It's simple and easy to use and ultimately makes sure that babies keep moving."

Jail for concealing cocaine inside body

A LONDON drug dealer who hid drugs – including cocaine – inside his body for sale on the streets of Tunbridge Wells, has been jailed for seven years.

David Akande, of Sylvan Hill, Norwood, was arrested by Kent Police last year and then held in custody for 21 days after refusing to go to the toilet.

After refusing to co-operate with an intimate search he was placed under constant supervision until he produced the drugs. Powers were used to extend his detention until all the evidence had been retrieved.

A total of 24 wraps were eventually recovered. Forensic tests later showed these included cocaine, a cocaine cutting agent and traces of a heroin derivative. He was convicted of possession with intent to supply cocaine at Maidstone Crown Court.

Det Con Jeremy Taylor said: ''The sentence as well as the indignity Akande has put himself through should serve as a severe warning to anyone planning to deal drugs in Tunbridge Wells.''

Patrols stepped up in bid to crack crime

SEVEN people have been arrested following a crackdown on shoplifting and antisocial behaviour in Snodland.

Officers have also seized more than two kilograms of cannabis as efforts continue to tackle the misuse of drugs in the town.

Operation Hobbit was launched last month and officers made the arrests between April 10 and 26, with five people being charged.

Police say the operation is on-going with increased patrols deployed in a bid to deter criminals in the Snodland area.

PC John Fordham said: ''We have seen significant falls in the number of reported shoplifting offences in the High Street in April compared with March and by cracking down on retail crime in Snodland we hope to also address other concerns.

''Operations such as these are really important in helping to get the message out there that we will continue to tackle all crime in Snodland to keep it a safe place to live and visit.''

Video aims to lower sexual incident cases

BRITISH Transport Police is urging passengers to report any and all unwanted sexual behaviour across the transport network.

It has released a short film which follows a woman as she experiences escalating incidents of unwanted sexual behaviour during a train journey

The purpose of the video, which is aimed at women aged between 16 and 35-years-old, is to tackle under-reporting by raising awareness that people can, and should, report all behaviour that makes them feel uncomfortable and that the police will seek to take action as a result.

Richard Mann, detective superintendent of British Transport Police, said: ''We want the travelling public to feel confident that we take every sexual incident seriously, no matter what has happened, and we believe what is reported to us.

''By working with our partners we want people to feel encouraged to report unwanted sexual behaviour, and to know we will do everything we can to find those responsible.''

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agenda

What will make next week's headlines...

Bid to reduce number of bikers hurt or killed

A CAMPAIGN rolls out this month in a bid to crackdown on the number of cyclists and motorcyclists being injured on our roads.

Road safety teams from both Kent County Council and Medway Council are joining forces for a campaign which runs until the end of June.

More than 120 roadside boards will be put up at key sites where crashes between cars and cyclists or bikers have occurred.

The boards will carry messages urging motorists to be vigilant.

Last year alone across the county, more then 350 cyclists and 400 motorcyclists were killed or injured.

KCC's Stever Horton said: "Quite often, it's a case of drivers looking but just not seeing. This campaign aims to remind motorists to think about the smaller more vulnerable road users, especially at junctions."



Films mark 50 years of feminism at university

A SEASON of films to mark 50 years of feminism at the University of Kent will be screened over the coming weeks – the first of which is on Tuesday.

The Radical Women: 50 Years of Feminism at Kent project is showcasing and disseminating the achievements of feminist academics at Kent in improving women's rights and well-being through their research, scholarship, pedagogy and activism over the last four decades.

The films, at the Gulbenkian cinema, begin with The Song of the Shirt at 6.30pm on Tuesday. The films run until June 1.

...also

Grow your knowledge

A FASCINATION of Plants Day takes place in Medway next Sunday, May 17.

Staged at the University of Greenwich's campus at Chatham Maritime it is a free to attend event for all the family. It runs from 11am to 3pm.

Sandwich give-away

SANDWICH will be the centre of a promotional event to highlight National Sandwich Week today - which will include the unveiling of a new town sign.

Branston pickle will be making and handing out free sandwiches.

Animal fight sentencing

MAGISTRATES at Folkestone will sentence Steve Alston, 49, from Littlebourne, near Canterbury, on Monday after he admitted two offences to organising an animal fight and causing unnecessary suffering to three terrier-type dogs.

Dog actors required

TALENTED dogs can audition for a role in Shakespeare comedy the Two Gentlemen of Verona on May 13. The Changeling Theatre Company needs both dog and owner to travel on tour. To audition, email admin@changeling-theatre.com.

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Gills chief claims petition over stadium plans is 'electioneering'

Paul Scally says he has only 'identified' a possible site and says opposition is politically motivated

By Jamie Weir
jamie.weir@archant.co.uk

THE chairman of Kent's only Football League club has hit back at a petition opposing a possible site for a new state-of-the-art stadium, claiming those behind it are politically motivated and 'electioneering'.

Gillingham owner Paul Scally has made no secret of his desire to shift the club from its traditional Priestfield home to a purpose-built venue which would also allow additional supporting development to help make the club a vibrant business and community asset.

But he insists he has done nothing more than "identify" a possible site and has hit back at the organisers of a petition, signed by more than 400 residents, opposing the plans,

The stadium would have a capacity of between 12,000 and 24,000 seats. Other development would also take place, with a conference facility, sports store, a supermarket and up to 300 houses with associated roads and access, landscaping and parking.





OPPOSITION: Ukip's Vaughan Hewett at proposed site, left, and Gillingham chairman Paul Scally, right

The petition was handed to Medway Council a week before the election. It related to the possible site for a stadium at Mill Hill, off Yokosuka Way. It was organised by local Ukip councillor Vaughan Hewett – who was up for re-election on Thursday.

He claimed the stadium would ruin well used green spaces.

But Mr Scally hit back.

He told KoS this week: "All we've done at this stage is identify the site, nothing more than that.

"If we did proceed with any plans for a new stadium, there would be all sorts of consultation events for local people and the whole community. We would need to go through a number of processes before anything were to happen.

"The guy who has spearheaded the petition, and presented it to the council is a Ukip councillor, and it strikes me that this petition is nothing more than electioneering and a way to drum up votes and get support for his party."

Cllr Hewett, however, denied the claims. He says Gillingham has already applied for an environmental impact assessment (EIA) – that application means the club needs to investigate any environmental impact which may occur as a result of the demolition of existing structures and the construction of a what is termed a 'multi-purpose stadium'.

Obtaining an EIA is a normal part of the decision making process prior to putting in any sort of planning application. It does not, however, mean the scheme will go ahead.

Mr Hewett told KoS his concern is with the preservation of green spaces in the area, rather than rabble rousing.

He said: "There should, quite simply, be no development like this on a greenfield site. Once land like this has been built on, it is gone for good, and this particular chunk of land is well loved by local people. This type of greenfield site is important for the public, who can go out and enjoy the natural environment. Building on it would do irreparable damage and deny our children and grandchildren these wonderful spaces."

The site itself was proposed for development in the past in Medway council's local plan – the document which sets out its development aspirations. It was roundly condemned by the public, with residents stating







PRIESTFIELD: Gillingham's existing home ground would be sold to help finance the move to a new home - once a site has been agreed

that they wanted to preserve the countryside within Rainham and particularly Mill Hill.

Cllr Hewett says that while he is actively fighting this particular site, he's not against a new stadium, and is even suggesting a solution for the Gills.

He told KoS that there was, in fact, a brownfield – previously developed – site which he feels would be perfect for any new stadium development.

He said: "Gillingham Football Club's proposed new stadium should be built on the brownfield site of the old Castlemaine quarry, which is currently being de-gasified after its use as an old rubbish tip. It is between Castlemaine Avenue and the railway line, a short distance from Priestfield. This would be a perfect location for such a 24,00-seater stadium."

The stumbling block, however, may be the size of the site - it is only around 60 per cent of the Mill Hill site.

That still makes it around four times the size of the clubs current home at Priestfield, but it would not allow much, if any, additional development.

One of the key pieces of enabling development for any new stadium will be housing – the sales of these would help finance the cost of a new stadium, which has been estimated at between £30 to 40 million.

Cllr Hewett told KoS he didn't want to see a potential housing development, which he believes could spill outwards from the site in the future.

He said: "Lots of people go walking and use the green spaces around here, and that would be lost. What I find absolutely disgusting is that Gillingham doesn't even fill the stadium they already have. It's never at capacity, so where is the need for a massive new stadium?"

Mr Scally though, says that any new stadium would add considerably to the area which it was built in, rather than taking away from it.

He told KoS: "You've only got to look at the benefits other areas have had when a club has built a new stadium. They bring regeneration to areas, creating new jobs, new facilities and greater economic activity.

"That's what we want to do; help grow ourselves and the local area. I've been saying for the last 20 years that if Gillingham Football Club wants to grow, and progress higher up the league pyramid, we need a bigger, better stadium.

"People who say we shouldn't expand because the stadium isn't always at capacity need to realise the size of the stadium is a stumbling block. Building a new stadium is the only way to get bigger, and we're committed to taking the club upwards."

Medway Council refused to comment.



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PACKED: There is mounting pressure on primary school places in our towns with hundreds of parents failing to get the preferred choice for their children

Squeeze on primary school spots leaves towns without spare places

Education expert **Peter Read** on worrying figures which reveal urban schools are over-subscribed

THERE appears to be a crisis in provision of primary school places in a several Kent towns.

Dartford and Sevenoaks have no vacancies in any primary school, Folkestone has just 0.4 per cent, Ashford, Maidstone, Tunbridge Wells and Gravesend and Northfleet have just two per cent vacancies. Broadstairs and Ramsgate just three per cent.

Kent County Council has a target of at least five per cent vacancies in each of their 12 districts, the average vacancy rate across the county being seven per cent.

However, my analysis shows there is often a severe imbalance between town and country.

Some of the problems will shake down as parents don't take up places because of moving home, or in some areas choosing private schools, but sadly 724 children were offered no school of their choice in April.

The most oversubscribed primary school is Sandgate Primary with 67 first choices turned away. It is followed by: St Michael's CofE Infants, Maidstone, 60; Holy Trinity & St John's CofE, Margate, 58; St Joseph's Catholic, Northfleet, 48; Priory Infant, Ramsgate, 47; Great Chart, Ashford & Brunswick House, Maidstone, 45; Cobham, Gravesham, 44; St John's Catholic, Gravesend, 43; Fleetdown, Dartford, 38; and Chilton, Ramsgate, 34.

To ease the pressure, seven new primary academies are opening in September, but six of these are being built to cater for new housing developments outside the towns.

Ashford

Apart from one primary school with one vacancy the only school with spaces is Furley Park, a good Ofsted, and excellent Key Stage 2 results, but at the far south of the town, inaccessible to many families. Finberry Primary Academy is opening in September to serve a new development on the outskirts of the town. Most popular school in the town is John Wesley CofE Methodist, with 17 disappointed first choices, although Great Chart Primary just outside the town has 45 first choices turned away, reflecting major building developments nearby.

Dartford

There are no vacancies in any school in the town. Most popular school is Fleetdown, 38 disappointed first choices, followed: by Brent, 33; then West Hill, 22; and Wentworth, 20.

Folkestone

Just one of the 17 schools in Folkestone has three vacancies. Sandgate Primary is the most popular primary school in Kent, turning away 67 first choices. Second is the junior section of Folkestone Academy, both schools run by the same executive headteacher. The pressures will be slightly eased by the new Martello Grove Academy, opening in east Folkestone in September.

Gravesham

Gravesend and Northfleet families have most difficulty in Kent in finding good schools for their children, as there are too many with problems. Not surprisingly, Gravesham has three of the most oversubscribed schools in Kent: two in the top ten for the third consecutive year – St Joseph's Catholic, Northfleet, (top in 2013), 48, and St John's Catholic, Gravesend (second in 2014), 43; together with Cobham, 44. Just one of the 18 schools has vacancies and 108 children, 10 per cent of those applying, have been allocated to schools they did not apply for. One family on the far west of Northfleet, has been offered a place at a school on the far east of Gravesend as they had the misfortune not to live near enough to any local school.

Maidstone

Most popular school is St Michael's CofE Infants, 60 first choices turned away, followed by: Brunswick House Primary 45; St John's CofE, 31; and East Borough, 30. The town has just 25 vacancies, two per cent of the total number of places available, in six schools including the new Jubilee Free School, Evangelical Christian, which has received 31 of the 89 local authority allocations.

Sevenoaks

As in previous years, there are no vacancies at all in the seven town schools, four heavily oversubscribed each between 26 and 30 first choices turned away: Riverhead Infant; Lady Boswell's CofE and St John's CofE. There is considerable movement between now and September because of the option of private education as a fall-back for many.

South Thanet

There are just three out of 14 schools with vacancies. Priory Infants, turning away 47 first choices, is the fifth most oversubscribed school in Kent. Chilton Primary at 34 is tenth. 72 children are allocated to schools they haven't applied to. Ramsgate Free School, attached to Chilton Primary, is due to open in September.

Tunbridge Wells

There are 29 places free at two schools, three per cent of the total. Because of pressure on places, a total of 73 children, or eight per cent of all applicants, have been allocated to schools they did not apply to. As usual, Claremont is the most popular school in TW, turning away 32 first choices. St John's CofE has 22, with St James' CofE Infant and Pembury on 21. Wells Free School in its second year of operation is also proving popular with 19 first choices oversubscribed.



FEARS: Author Peter Read

Peter Read runs Kent Independent Education Advice. For more details on this story, see his website www.kentadvice.co.uk.

KCC INSISTS IT IS DOING ALL IT CAN TO COPE

WE are doing all we can - but it's a difficult issue to resolve, Kent County Council's cabinet member for education says.

With an ever increasing population and a boom in the age group now needing primary schools it is putting pressure on the local authority - although it had been predicted for years.

''Key Stage 1 classes across the country are coming under pressure and they will continue to do so,'' Roger Gough explained.

''There are very particular pressures on urban areas which make it harder. It is inevitably harder to find sites for new schools, and there can be limits on sites - or on how large you want a school to be.

''And a population movement can suddenly shift things. We have seen people moving into Dartford from London quite rapidly, for example.''

The council's education department has been given an extra £92 million by the government to help it meet the need for more school places across the county over the next three years.

This in addition to the £28m it had originally been allocated, and came after the council told the government it needed the cash. The council estimates it will need to provide 15,000 extra primary school places between now and 2020.

''The only response is to seek to expand capacity wherever we can. We have delivered significant expansions and have plans to do more of the same.

''We work towards five per cent vacancies, but there are times when you might say it's okay to go under it – if you have a bulge year you wouldn't want to be adding capacity.

''Schools do also sometimes go over their admissions number.''

Farage quits...but he may return

By Jamie Weir
jamie.weir@archant.co.uk



GONE: Nigel Farage announces he is quitting outside the Botany Bay Hotel on Friday. Pic: ADY KERRY

NIGEL Farage saw his hopes of securing a seat at Westminster dashed – and within an hour had made good on his promise to quit as leader of the party he has dominated.

Mr Farage, from Westerham, stood outside the Botany Bay Hotel in Broadstairs on Friday morning and revealed he would quit – but then left the door open for his return.

The charismatic leader, who divided public opinion, had spent the night watching his party make massive gains in terms of vote share, but return just one MP.

Little wonder, then, he made a call for electoral reform as he bowed out.

Ukip's grasp on Rochester and Strood – won just six months ago following the defection from the Conservatives of Mark Reckless and his subsequent by-election victory – was brief. They were soundly beaten (see below).

Only Douglas Carswell clung to his one spot of Ukip purple on the UK's political map.

But despite the gains, it was Mr Farage's failure, on his seventh attempt, to gain a place amid the corridors of power in Westminster which will grab all the headlines.

Announcing his decision to stand at the peak of his popularity in August last year, he fought a tough campaign against Labour's Will Scobie and Conservative Craig Mackinlay.

In the end, it was Mr Mackinlay, himself a former Ukip member, who emerged triumphant.

He polled 18,848 votes – a comfortable lead, in the end, over Mr Farage, who had led in so many pre-election polls. Ukip polled 16,026 votes with Will Scobie trailing in third with 11,740 seats.

Certainly supporters of all parties had suffered a long, sleepless night. As one of the last results to declare, the final result did not come until just after 10.30am.

Polls closed at 10pm. The result had been expected at 6am.

Speaking after the vote was declared, Mr Farage said: "We have a party that got 50 per cent of the vote in one region and got nearly 100 per cent of the seats and another party received that received 12 per cent of the vote and has one seat. I think the time has come for real, political reform.

"On a professional level, I express today a degree of disappointment. On a personal level, I feel an enormous weight has been lifted from my shoulders."

Leaving the stage at the Winter Gardens in Margate where the vote had taken place – dragging with him a huge hoard of the media – he headed to Broadstairs to once again speak to the media.

He said he was to resign and take a holiday. However, he left the door open for a return by saying he would consider whether or not to throw his name in the ring, when Ukip elect a new leader later this year.

Few would be surprised if he did not.

However, he has been dogged by claims of ill health – which he put down to not having treatment on his back at the start of the campaign – and the cost of fighting for the seat appears to have taken its toll.

We have not, you cannot help but think, seen the last of Nigel Farage – or his rising Ukip – just yet.

Tolhurst sends Reckless packing

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

MARK Reckless was unceremoniously booted out of parliament in a dramatic night in Medway, having served just six months as a Ukip MP.

Mr Reckless had defected from the Conservatives last year – opting to join Nigel Farage's Ukip.

He resigned as a Tory MP, forcing a by-election in November.

But on Wednesday night the candidate he defeated just months ago came back to haunt him as the Conservatives swept to a remarkable, sizeable victory.

Conservative candidate Kelly Tolhurst polled 23,142 votes compared with 16,009 for Mr Reckless. The Greens came third, the Liberal Democrats trailing in fourth.

After her win, Ms Tolhurst said: "I was born in Medway and work here. I know these people and know their needs.

"At the last election I was the new girl and nobody really knew me. The campaign was short but I did my best.

"This time I was able to show more people who I am and what I stand for.

"I was able to show that I genuinely care about their future and will do all in my power over the next five years to deliver on my promises."

Mr Reckless will now be left to rue a decision which appears to have torpedoed his political ambitions.

He had once been tipped as one of the Tories' bright hopes.

Mr Reckless said: "I will continue to support Ukip but I don't have any concrete plans for the future yet and will spend the next few days considering my position."

He suggested he may return to his previous life as an economist. He said Ukip nationally had a lot of strong second places, and it now appears the party will be a major challenger in forthcoming elections, particularly in the north.

Meanwhile in Gillingham and Rainham, Tory Rehman Chishti defeated Labour's Paul Clark to hold on to the seat. Mr Clark had lost the seat to his Tory opponent in 2010.

Mr Chishti, who quit the Labour Party to stand for the Conservatives, was formerly a protégé of Mr Clark, and the two remain far from friends.

Mr Chishti said: "I am grateful to the residents who voted me in. I have worked tirelessly for them and will continue to do so."

He polled 22,590 votes to Mr Clark's 12,060. Mr Clark said after the defeat: "He is a Tory and I totally disagree for what he stands for. For him to say everyone has benefitted from his time in parliament is awful.

> **"I will continue to support Ukip but I don't have any plans for the future yet and will spend the next few days considering my position."**
>
> **Mark Reckless,**
> Defeated former Ukip MP

"I have cases of people who do not see it that way, and I worry about their future under this government and its big spending cuts."

And in Chatham and Aylesford, sitting Tory MP Tracey Crouch won an enlarged majority beating Labour. She took 21,614 votes, with Labour's Tristan Osborne gaining 10,159.

She told us: "It was a tough battle and although I am very tired now, I look forward to another five years of doing all I can for the people in my constituency and the rest of the country.

"It was a tough battle and I am delighted to have got this majority."



VICTORY: It was second time lucky for a triumphant Kelly Tolhurst

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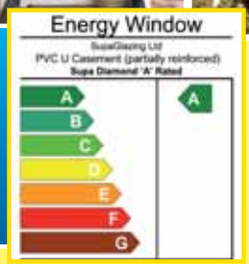


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Labour and Lib Dems 'hit rock bottom' after Tory 'blue-wash'

While Kent stayed firmly true blue, just what happened with the Labour, Lib Dem and Ukip vote? **Maria Chiorando** asks the experts

POLITICAL leaders fell like flies on Friday morning as the nation woke up to one of the most unexpected election results in living memory.

After polls throughout the campaign suggested the two main parties were neck and neck, results pouring in overnight showed constituencies across England turning blue.

As the Conservative Party clinched a victory with a majority of 12, Labour's Ed Miliband gave his resignation speech while there were still eight seats to declare.

Ukip's Nigel Farage had already exited his party after he lost out to Conservative Craig Mackinlay in South Thanet.

So had Nick Clegg after the decimation of the Lib Dems left him with just eight seats and a ghostly pallor.

It was a shock result nationally - but not in Kent, where every single seat remained blue.

"There were no surprises here, not at all," says Mark Bennister, senior lecturer in politics and international relations at Canterbury Christ Church University. "There is very little opposition to the Tories in this county."

His colleague John Fitzgibbon agrees. "It's not surprising they won the seats here," he says. "What's interesting though, is looking at who came second.

"In many areas it was Ukip - they are the biggest threat to Labour right now, and Labour is in crisis."

While only taking one seat - Clacton, which is held by ex-Tory Douglas Carswell - Ukip gained almost 13 per cent of the overall vote (see box).

Dr Fitzgibbon says: "Ukip did well, despite not getting the big breakthrough, and not getting the seats, but 2020 is their watch word. This is their peak so far, but I see them continuing. While Farage has stepped down now, he may well be back. He's done this before, it's classic Farage. He's a character, so he gets away with doing these things."

Ben Syed, a lecturer in British and comparative politics at the University of Kent, adds: "It's clear Nigel Farage was the significant draw for Ukip - he has the big public profile, and it's hard to think of anyone else in the party with that kind of appeal.

"While they came second in a number of seats across Kent, they may find it hard to build on that."

While Ukip will be looking to build on their vote share, it is Labour and the Lib Dems who have the biggest hills to climb.

> **"The problem for Ed Miliband's successor is that voters in Scotland were saying Labour are not left-wing enough.. and there are MPs in London claiming they are too left-wing."**
>
> **Mark Bennister,**
> Canterbury Christ Church University

"What has surprised a lot of people," says Dr Fitzgibbon, "is that Ukip took a slice of the left-wing votes.

"This is because they represent working class values. A lot of these voters see Ed Miliband not having these same values. Nigel Farage didn't go to university - he went to the 'university of life' - and he makes a big deal out of that.

"People identify with that more than Oxford or Cambridge-educated graduates.

"Basically you have working class people who feel they are not being represented by people who work - they feel alienated. Really run-down places like Dover and Folkestone should be permanent Labour targets."

He believes Labour now represent socially liberal, multicultural metropolitan areas.

Dr Syed agrees: "If you look at a map, it's places like London that have the Labour seats.

"The party is in a really tough place, and I think they did so badly because Ed Miliband wasn't the right leader, and also because the public do not yet trust them on the economy. If the economy picks up over the next five years, people might feel safer voting for Labour again. Right now, the financial crash is still in people's minds."

Dr Bennister says: "They have a lot of soul-searching to do now.

"Mr Miliband's exit speech did not suggest where the party should go ideologically - it was more like, 'goodbye, see you later'.

"It's difficult to say whether they should be looking at following a more centre-left ideology, like during Tony Blair's time, or whether



WIN: Sir Roger Gale speaks after winning seat

they should look more to the left.

"The problem is, voters in Scotland were saying Labour are not left-wing enough, and there are MPs in London claiming they are too left-wing. So it's going to be difficult to reconcile those arguments, because the party needs Scotland."

In terms of what went wrong, he says: "Looking at the results, their vote share didn't fall much, but they lacked the ability to compete in marginal seats. Also, their message about being able to form a potential relationship with the SNP played right into Conservative hands, who warned voters off Labour because of this."

There were also strategic differences between the two parties.

He added: "The Tories managed the media war and ground war well. There were no head-to-head debates on television, and they had very clear targets in their ground war."

The Liberal Democrats are in an even worse state - the party which won 57 seats in 2010 are down to just eight now nationally.

Dr Bennister says: "The Lib Dems are at rock bottom and they really have to question their decision to go into coalition.

"The political narrative dictates

Continues on Page 16

ONE of Labour's only hopes in the county lost out to his protege.

Gillingham and Rainham' s Paul Clark, failed to beat Rehman Chisti, in a replay of 2010's general election.

Mr Chishti, who the Telegraph once described as a 'rising star' of the Conservative Party actually started his political career in the Labour camp.

A Labour councillor for Gillingham North, he stood for the Labour Party at the 2005 general election for Horsham, but lost to Tory Francis Maude.

Mr Maude, Mr Chishti claims, was instrumental in his decision to look towards David Cameron's rising party.

He defected to the Conservatives later that year.

Having helped Mr Clark in 2005, by 2010 he stood against him.

And as the wave of public opinion swung away from Labour, so he was returned as MP.

Standing again for the constituency this time round, Mr Chishti took the seat with a commanding 48 per cent of the votes, to Mr Clark's 25.6 per cent.



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SURPRISE: Craig Mackinlay is all smiles after securing his route to Westminster at South Thanet. All pictures: ADY KERRY

Continued from Page 15

minority parties who go into these agreements fare badly.

"Most people were predicting they would lose half of their seats, but where do they go from here?

"Their demise means we are back to two-party politics in England, after there was a long discussion, prompted by the polls, about how we were now going to be looking at a multi-party system."

Dr Syed adds: "The Lib Dems really have to question their identity.

"The centre ground is very congested. Neither the Conservatives or Labour are extreme right-wing or extreme left-wing, so what is distinctive about the Liberals? What is the ideological space they have?"

Dr Fitzgibbon adds: "Right now, they are looking like a spent force.

"I don't know whether they will ever come back from this."

All of the academics agree on one of the election's biggest stories.

"You have to ask what was going on with the polls," says Dr Bennister.

"While they got it right in terms of the Scottish surge of support for the SNP, nearly everyone got the numbers in England way off.

"Obviously with polls you always have caveats that could swift them several points in either direction, but these were astounding."

Dr Syed agrees: "Something went totally wrong with those polls, and I'm not sure why."

DOES THE SYSTEM NEED REFORM?

WITH a number of the smaller parties sucking up votes but not seats, many will be looking at electoral system.

The first-past-the-post voting, where the candidate with the most votes wins the constituency, means that parties can win a lot of votes nationwide, but that does not translate into seats, something that tends to affect the smaller parties more.

Ukip's former leader Nigel Farage discussed this in his resignation speech, saying: "We've got a party in Britain who got 50 per cent of the vote in one of the regions and nearly 100 per cent of the seats [the SNP]and we've got another party that scored nearly as many votes, 4m, that has finished up with one seat in parliament and I think the time has come for real, genuine, radical political reform and I think it's Ukip that'll be the party that leads it."

Dr Bennister is not confident we will see this change: "The Lib Dems are the party who makes a case for consistutional change. They can't do this with only eight MPs."



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General election 2015 results

How Kent's new political landscape looks

1 Ashford



TURNOUT: 67.3%

NAME	VOTES	%VOTES	+/-
Damian Green (Con)	30,094	52.5	-1.7
Brendan Chilton (Lab)	10,580	18.4	+1.8
Debbie Enever (Lib Dem)	3,433	6	-16.8
Mandy Rossi (Green)	2,467	4.3	+2.5
Gerald O'Brien (Ukip)	10, 798	18.8	+14.3



MAJORITY 33.6% HOLD

2 Beckenham



TURNOUT: 72.4%

NAME	VOTES	%VOTES	+/-
Marina Ahmad (Lab)	9,484	19.4	+5
Anuja Prashar (Lib Dem)	3,378	6.9	-13.7
Rob Bryant (Ukip)	6,108	12.5	+9.3
Bob Stewart (Con)	27,955	57.3	-0.6
Ruth Fabricant (Green)	1,878	3.8	+2.6



MAJORITY 37.8% HOLD

3 Bexleyheath & Crayford



TURNOUT: 67.4%

NAME	VOTES	%VOTES	+/-
Chris Attard (Ukip)	9,182	21	+17.4
David Evennett (Con)	20,643	47.3	- 3.2
Stefano Borella (Lab)	11,451	26.2	-0.3
Stella Gardiner (Green)	950	2.2	+1.3
Richard Davis (Lib Dem)	1,308	3	-9.7
Maggi Young (Eng Dems)	151	0.3	-0.7



MAJORITY 21% HOLD

4 Bromley & Chislehurst



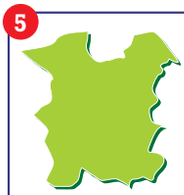
TURNOUT: 67.3%

NAME	VOTES	%VOTES	+/-
John Courtneidge (Lab)	9,779	22.2	+5.6
Roisin Robertson (Green)	1,823	4.1	+2.8
Emmett Jenner (Ukip)	6,285	14.3	+11
Sam Webber (Lib Dem)	2,836	6.4	-15.5
Bob Neill (Con)	23,343	53	-0.5



MAJORITY 30.8% HOLD

5 Canterbury



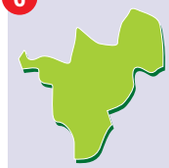
TURNOUT: 64%

NAME	VOTES	%VOTES	+/-
Julian Brazier (Con)	22,918	42.9	- 1.9
James Flanagan (Lib Dem)	6,227	11.6	-20.9
Jim Gascoyne (Ukip)	7,289	13.6	+9.8
Stuart Jeffery (Green)	3,746	7	+4.7
Hugh Lanning (Lab)	13,120	24.5	+8.4
Robert Cox (Socialist)	165	0.3	+0.3



MAJORITY 18.3% HOLD

6 Chatham & Aylesford



TURNOUT: 62.8%

NAME	VOTES	%VOTES	+/-
Tracey Crouch (Con)	21,614	50.2	+4
Ian Wallace (Ukip)	8,581	19.9	+16.9
Tristan Osborne (Lab)	10,159	23.6	-8.7
Ivor Riddell (TUSC)	125	0.3	+0.3
Luke Balnave (Green)	1,101	2.6	+1.7
John-Wesley Gibson (CPA)	133	0.3	+0.3
Thomas Quinton (Lib Dem)	1,360	3.2	-10.2



MAJORITY 26.6% HOLD

7 Dartford



TURNOUT: 68.4%

NAME	VOTES	%VOTES	+/-
Andy Blatchford (Green)	1,324	2.5	+2.5
Gareth Johnson (Con)	25,670	49	+0.2
Simon Thomson (Lab)	13,325	25.4	-2.1
Elizabeth Jones (Ukip)	10,434	19.9	+16.2
Simon Beard (Lib Dem)	1,454	2.8	-11.9
Steve Uncles (Eng Dem)	211	0.4	-0.39



MAJORITY 23.6% HOLD

8 Dover



TURNOUT: 68.9%

NAME	VOTES	%VOTES	+/-
Charlie Elphicke (Con)	21,737	43.3	-0.7
Clair Hawkins (Lab)	15,443	30.7	-2.8
David Little (Ukip)	10,177	20.3	+16.8
Jolyon Trimingham (Green)	1,295	2.6	+2.6
Sarah Smith (Lib Dem)	1,572	3.1	+12.7



MAJORITY 12.5% HOLD

9 Eltham



TURNOUT: 67.4%

NAME	VOTES	%VOTES	+/-
Alex Cunliffe (Lib Dem)	1,308	3	-9.6
James Parker (Green)	1,275	3	+2
Spencer Drury (Con)	15,700	36.4	-1.2
Peter Whittle (Ukip)	6,481	15	+12.6
Clive Efford (Lab)	18,393	42.6	+1.1



MAJORITY 6.2% HOLD

10 Erith & Thamesmead



TURNOUT: 61.1%

NAME	VOTES	%VOTES	+/-
Sidney Cordle (Christian Peoples Alliance)	255	0.6	-0.3
Ronie Johnson (Ukip)	7,368	17.3	+14.6
Anna Firth (Con)	11,684	27.4	-4
Graham Moore (Eng Dems)	188	0.4	-0.7
Ann Garrett (Green)	941	2.2	+1.4
Teresa Pearce (Lab)	21,209	49.8	+4.9
Simon Waddington (Lib Dems)	972	2.3	-9.8



MAJORITY 22.4% HOLD

11 Faversham & Mid Kent



TURNOUT: 65.9%

NAME	VOTES	%VOTES	+/-
Gary Butler (Eng Dem)	158	0.3	+0.3
Hairy Knorm Davidson (Monster Raving Loony Party)	297	0.6	-0.2
Dave Naghi (Lib Dem)	3,039	6.6	-13
Helen Whately (Con)	24,895	54.4	-1.8
Michael Desmond (Lab)	7,403	16.2	-0.4
Peter Edwards-Daem (Ukip)	8,243	18	+14.3
Tim Valentine (Green)	1,768	3.9	+2



MAJORITY 36.4% HOLD

12 Folkestone & Hythe



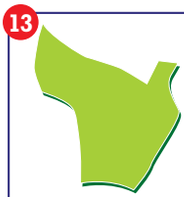
TURNOUT: 65.8%

NAME	VOTES	%VOTES	+/-
Damian Collins (Con)	26,323	47.9	-1.6
Claire Jeffrey (Lab)	7,939	14.4	+3.6
Martin Whybrow (Green)	2,956	5.4	+4.2
Lynne Beaumont (Lib Dem)	4,882	8.9	-21.4
Harriet Yeo (Ukip)	12,526	22.8	+18.2
Seth Cruse (TUSC)	244	0.4	+0.4
Andy Thomas (SPGB)	68	0.1	+0.1
Dr Rohen Kapur (YPP)	72	0.1	+0.1



MAJORITY 25.1% HOLD

13 Gillingham & Rainham



TURNOUT: 64.8%

NAME	VOTES	%VOTES	+/-
Mark Hanson (Ukip)	9,199	19.5	+16.3
Jacqui Berry (TUSC)	273	0.6	+0.6
Paul Chaplin (Lib Dem)	1,707	3.6	-14.5
Neil Williams (Green)	1,133	2.4	+1.6
Paul Clark (Lab)	12,060	25.6	-2
Rehman Chishti (Con)	22,590	48	+1.8
Roger Peacock (Ind)	72	0.2	+0.2
Mike Walters (Ind)	44	0.1	+0.1



MAJORITY 22.4% HOLD

14 Gravesham



TURNOUT: 67.5%

NAME	VOTES	%VOTES	+/-
Anne-Marie Bunting (Lib Dem)	1,111	2.2	-11.1
Sean Marriott (Ukip)	9,306	18.6	+13.8
Mark Lindop (Green)	1,124	2.2	+0.8
Adam Holloway (Con)	23,484	46.8	-1.7
Tanmanjit Singh Dhesi (Lab)	15,114	30.1	+1.3



MAJORITY 16.7% HOLD

15 Greenwich & Woolwich



TURNOUT: 63.7%

NAME	VOTES	%VOTES	+/-
Ryan Acty (Ukip)	3,888	8.3	+8.3
Matt Hartley (Con)	12,438	26.6	+2.1
Abbey Akinoshun (Green)	2,991	6.4	+3.8
Tom Holder (Lib Dem)	2,645	5.7	-12.5
Lynne Chamberlain (TUSC)	370	0.8	+0.1
Matthew Pennycook (Lab)		24,384	52.2
+3			



MAJORITY 25.6% HOLD

16 Maidstone & The Weald



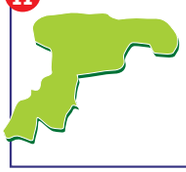
TURNOUT: 68.3%

NAME	VOTES	%VOTES	+/-
Robin Kinrade (Ind)	52	0.1	+0.1
Hannah Patton (Green)	1,396	2.8	+1.5
Allen Simpson (Lab)	5,268	10.5	+0.8
Eddie Powell (Ukip)	7,930	15.9	+12.5
Helen Grant (Con)	22,745	45.5	-2.5
Paul Hobday (NHAP)	583	1.2	+1.2
Jasper Gerard (Lib Dem)	12,036	24.1	-11.9



MAJORITY 21.4% HOLD

17 Rochester & Strood



TURNOUT: 66.5%(COMPARISON WITH 2010)

NAME	VOTES	%VOTES	+/-
Prue Bray (Lib Dem)	1,251	2.4	-13.9
Mark Reckless (Ukip)	16,009	30.5	+30.5
Naushabah Khan (Lab)	10,396	19.8	-8.7
Dan Burn (TUSC)	202	0.4	+0.4
Clive Gregory (Green)	1,516	2.9	+1.4
Kelly Tolhurst (Con)	23,142	44.1	-5.1



MAJORITY 13.6% HOLD

18 Old Bexley & Sidcup



TURNOUT: 70.8%

NAME	VOTES	%VOTES	+/-
James Brokenshire (Con)	24,682	52.8	-1.3
Jennifer Keen (Lib Dem)	1,644	3.5	-11.9
Nicola Finch (BNP)	218	0.5	-4.2
Ibrahim Mehmet (Lab)	8,879	19	-0.3
Bob Gill (NHAP)	1,216	2.6	+2.6
Derek Moran (Green)	1,336	2.9	+2



MAJORITY 33.8% HOLD

19 Orpington



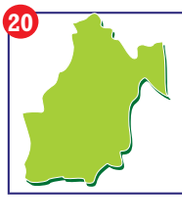
TURNOUT: 72%

NAME	VOTES	%VOTES	+/-
Peter Brooks (Lib Dem)	3,330	6.8	-17.7
Tamara Galloway (Green)	1,732	3.5	+2.5
Nigel de Gruchy (Lab)	7,645	15.6	+6.6
Jo Johnson (Con)	28,152	57.4	-2.3
Idham Ramadi (Ukip)	8,173	16.7	+13.9



MAJORITY 40.7% HOLD

20 Sevenoaks



TURNOUT: 70.9%

NAME	VOTES	%VOTES	+/-
Alan Bullion (Lib Dem)	3,937	7.9	-13.5
Amelie Boleyn (Green)	2,238	4.5	+4.5
Chris Clark (Lab)	6,448	12.9	-0.4
Stephen Lindsay (Ukip)	8,970	17.9	+14.3
Michael Fallon (Con)	28,531	56.9	+0.1



MAJORITY 39% HOLD

21 Sittingbourne & Sheppey



TURNOUT: 65%

NAME	VOTES	%VOTES	+/-
Gordon Henderson (Con)	25,425	49.5	-0.6
Gary Miller (Green)	1,185	2.4	+2.4
Keith Nevols (Lib Dem)	1,563	3.2	-13.2
Guy Nicholson (Lab)	9,673	19.6	-5
Richard Palmer (Ukip)	12,257	24.8	+9.4
Mad Mike Young (Monster Raving Loony Party)	275	0.6	-0.1



MAJORITY 24.6% HOLD

22 Thanet North



TURNOUT: 66.7%

NAME	VOTES	%VOTES	+/-
Cemanthe McKenzie (The Party for a United Thanet)	136	0.3	+0.3
Ed Targett (Green)	1,719	3.7	+3.7
Frances Rehal (Lab)	8,417	17.9	-3.6
George Cunningham (Lib Dem)	1,645	3.5	-15.9
Piers Wauchope (Ukip)	12,097	25.7	+19.2
Sir Roger Gale (Con)	23,045	49	-3.7



MAJORITY 23.3% HOLD

23 South Thanet



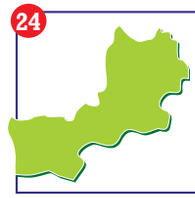
TURNOUT: 70.4%

NAME	VOTES	%VOTES	+/-
Zebadiah Abu-Obadiah (Al-Zebabist Nation of Ooog)	30	0.1	
Grahame Birchall (The Party for a United Thanet)	63	0.1	+0.1
Al Murray (FUKP)	318	0.6	+0.6
Craig Mackinlay (Con)	18,838	38.1	-9.9
Ian Driver (Green)	1,076	2.2	+2.2
Nigel Askew (We Are the Reality Party)	126	0.3	+0.3
Ruth Bailey (Manston Airport Independent Party)	191	0.4	+0.4
Russ Timpson (Lib Dem)	932	1.9	-13.2
Nigel Farage (Ukip)	16,026	32.4	+26.9
Will Scobie (Lab)	11,740	23.8	-7.6



MAJORITY 5.7% HOLD

24 Tonbridge & Malling



TURNOUT: 71.7%

NAME	VOTES	%VOTES	+/-
Tom Tugendhat (Con)	31,887	59.4	+1.5
Mary Varrall (Lib Dem)	3,660	6.8	-15.7
Claire Leigh (Lab)	7,604	14.2	+1.5
Robert Izzard (Ukip)	8,153	15.2	+11.5
Howard Porter (Green)	2,366	4.4	+2.9



MAJORITY 44.2% HOLD

25 Tunbridge Wells



TURNOUT: 70%

NAME	VOTES	%VOTES	+/-
Colin Nicholson (Ukip)	6,481	12.6	+8.5
Greg Clark (Con)	30,181	58.7	+2.4
Graham Naismith (Ind)	458	0.9	+0.9
James MacCleary (Lib Dem)	4,342	8.4	-16.4
Kevin Kerrigan (Lab)	7,307	14.2	+3.4
Marie Jones (Green)	2,659	5.2	+3.4



MAJORITY 44.5% HOLD

Advertisement Feature

Change Lives... Find out about fostering.



Fostering is possibly one of the most rewarding things you will ever do. Making a real difference to children's lives is a unique and immensely satisfying privilege.

However, a chronic shortage of foster carers means that more committed foster carers are needed to help change young lives.

Many people considering a career as a foster carer think that the local council is their only option. Most are completely unaware that independent fostering organisations even exist.

Next Step Fostering was established 25 years ago by Maureen and Alb Ward – who were foster carers themselves – and therefore had personal experience of caring for vulnerable children. Next Step Fostering remains a family company to this day, with Registered Manager Neil McCarthy, and Director Lesley Ward's involvement with the company stretching back over twenty years.

Next Step provides a range of fostering services through offices in Kent. London and The Thames Valley and work in partnership with many Local Authorities across the South East of England.

A national shortage of foster carers means that children who cannot live with their family are being moved away from their home communities, resulting in a change of school, community, friends and religious contacts. Every day, Next Step receives child referrals from Local Authorities, but due to the high levels of demand, do not have sufficient families to meet the needs of the many children being referred.

As a family run company, Next Step Fostering is able to offer a personal, individual service to its foster carers and children. Supervision, support and training can be tailored to individual needs and foster carers have an open invitation to approach Lesley Ward directly to discuss any issues they may have.

Fostering a child is not an easy task, but it is extremely rewarding – and thanks to the generous allowance Next Step Fostering pays, many people give up unfulfilling jobs to undertake a career in fostering, where they feel they can really make a difference to young lives.



Mary Cattell, an ex-carer herself and now Manager of the Chatham office, said "People often worry that they won't be suitable, based on things they have heard from friends or the media, but I would encourage anyone thinking about fostering to speak to us directly. We can answer all of their questions about the type of people we are looking for and what fostering is like."

If you are considering a career in fostering or simply want to learn more, call into Next Step Fostering's Chatham office, at 85 High Street, Chatham, Kent ME4 4EE.

Alternatively you can call the Chatham office on 01634 838666 and speak to a member of their friendly team or visit their website at www.nextstepfostering.org

Change your career, change a life. Call 01634 838666 or visit www.nextstepfostering.org

next step fostering
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How Kent stands in 2015

IT WAS not so much a whitewash as a blue rinse for the county on Thursday, as we took to the polls and carried David Cameron's party back to power in every one of Kent's constituencies.

Only a small splash of purple in Medway had spoilt the tapestry after Mark Reckless had quit the Tories last year to join arch-rivals Ukip.

But after Kelly Tolhurst swept him aside to regain Rochester and Strood, the writing was on the wall. Even Nigel Farage, the charismatic cheerleader of Ukip could not persuade the electorate in South Thanet that he should be returned to Westminster.

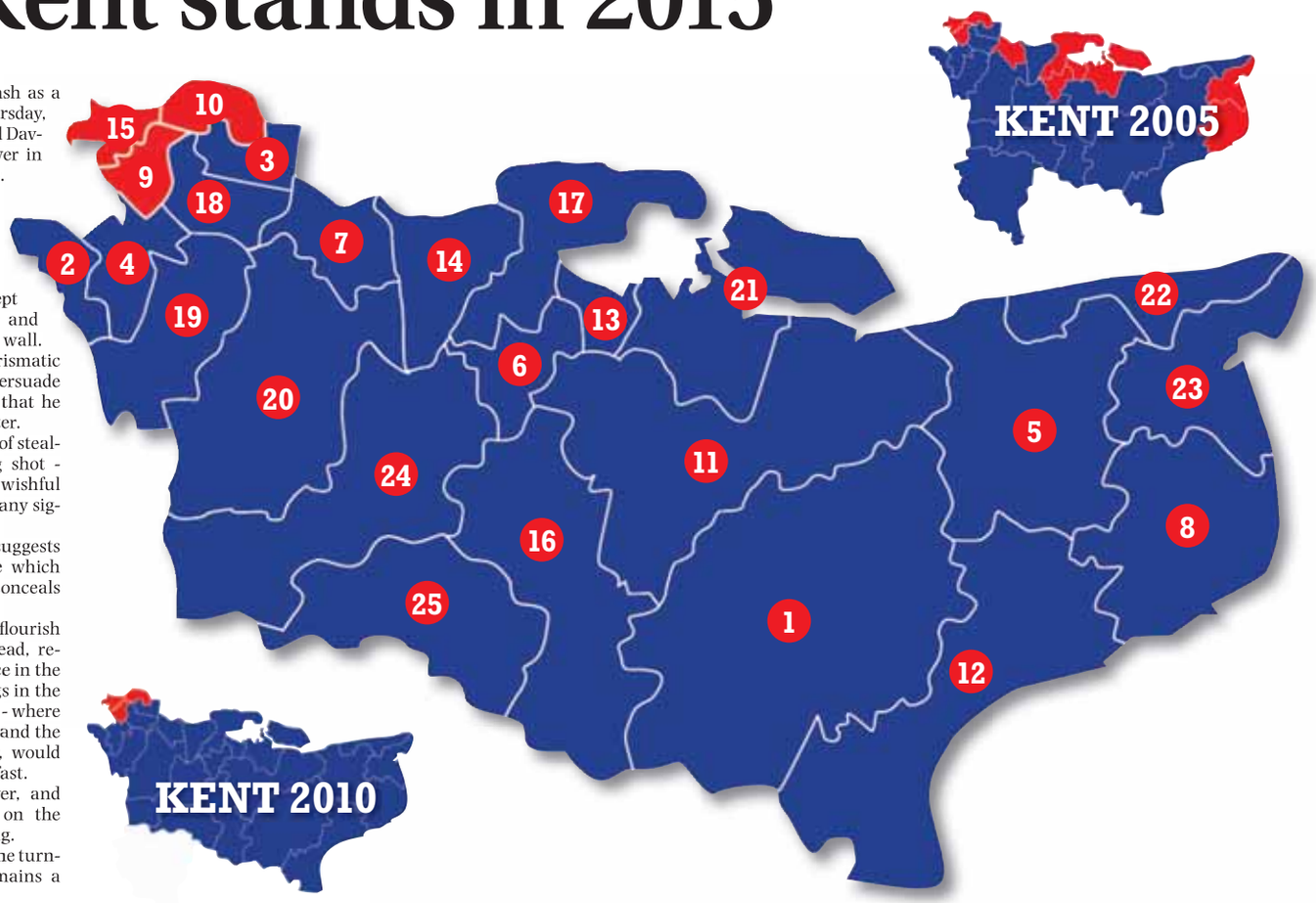
The Liberal Democrats' hopes of stealing Maidstone - always a long shot - proved nothing other than wishful thinking. Labour failed to make any significant ground.

But the Ukip rise in support suggests that beneath that wave of blue which washed back over the county, it conceals a purple lining.

Whether that continues to flourish over the months and years ahead, remains to be seen. But its influence in the county, given its strong showings in the county council elections in 2013 - where it is the main opposition party - and the European elections of last year, would suggest that it is going nowhere fast.

One thing is certain, however, and that is the Conservative grip on the county shows no sign of changing.

The people have spoken - and the turnout was strong - and Kent remains a Tory heartland.





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Faces from the past who marked the end of the war and toasted VE Day

Chris Murphy on a remarkable reunion taking place of those who attended a street party 70 years ago

AFTER six long, painful, destructive years, May 8, 1945, was the day when finally some light shone amid the darkness for millions.

The agony of the Second World War had left a huge scar not only on Europe and the rest of the world, but across each and every society in the UK.

Kent, in particular, had paid a high price – gripped amid fears it would be the invasion point for German forces and a target for frequent bombing raids.

But May 8 brought the beginning of the end. VE Day – Victory in Europe – marked the moment of the formal acceptance by the Allies of Germany's unconditional surrender.

A week before, Adolf Hitler had killed himself in his protective bunker. The war in the Pacific would take until August for the Japanese to finally surrender, hastened by the only deployment in history of nuclear weapons during warfare on the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

The sense of relief in Kent was palpable. Street parties were held, millions took to the streets across the county and in the capital.



DELIGHT: Audley Avenue in Tonbridge hits the streets for sandwiches

Even the Queen, then just Princess Elizabeth, sneaked on to the streets of London with her sister Margaret to soak up the carnival atmosphere. The sense of relief was overwhelming.

Those who remember that incredible day were children at the time, and were simply amazed at the amount of food and sweet things that were available.

Pamela Mills is an organiser for the Royal British Legion in Tonbridge. She told us: "Those that are alive now were children then, and the overwhelming response I have had was that these kids were so full of praise for their mothers for laying on such an amazing spread for the street parties."

One of the major events taking place today, Sunday, to remember those momentous moments is an exhibition and thanksgiving service at 6.30pm at the St Peter and St Paul parish church in Tonbridge – the exhibition is organised in partnership with the Royal British Legion.

Ms Mills has been working tirelessly, putting together a reunion of street party after seeing a particularly striking photo from the time.

She said it was taken of residents living in the Ives Road area of Tonbridge. Incredibly, she has traced 15 of them.

Ken Holman was one of those in attendance: "I remember it well as I was home on leave from the Army. I went to the party where everyone was happy, we drank and in style we came together. We knew we were all safe, but I had to return to the Army a few days later as I still had work to do."

Howard Holden attended an event in Hawden Road, Tonbridge. He said: "The VE Day party was by the Stag's Head pub. I remember the party; the sandwiches and jelly, the fancy hats and the community spirit was like nothing you ever see now."

Peter Andrews, a former wireless operator with the RAF's Bomber Command, was 21 at the time of VE Day. His experience was very different.

That day he was sitting on an airfield in Germany being transferred to France after being liberated from Stalag 7A prisoner of war camp in Moosburg near Munich by American forces.

He was one of hundreds to have been freed from that particular camp on May 2 – just days before VE Day.

The young airman and his crew had been shot down by German fighter planes down near the coast of Denmark on February 14, 1945.

"We found out that our war was over when all the guards disappeared from the camp," said the 90-year-old from Shipbourne.

"We heard gunfire, and then the Yanks turned up.

"I was elated. I had lost a lot of weight in the three months because we didn't have a lot to eat.

"I was suffering from dysentery."

Mr Andrews added: "I was on an airfield on VE Day waiting to be taken home to England.

"We were just elated to be free. We were sat laughing and joking and feeling very relieved that it was all over."

Joyce Powlter, 97, from Chatham, said: "It was a great time of rejoicing. Everyone was so happy by then. The war was finally over and people could get on with their lives once more. You could feel the relief in the air."

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PARTY: The Second World War was a bloody and painful conflict. Little wonder then so many were delighted when Victory in Europe Day was declared

EVENTS TODAY

SPECIAL events to mark the 70th anniversary have been taking place across the county this weekend.

On Friday, the instantly recognisable roar of a Spitfire could be heard in our skies again after taking off from Headcorn to fly over parts of Kent, piloted by retired Air Marshall Cliff Spink.

Beacons have also been lit in places like Folkestone and Gravesend. At the Battle of Britain Memorial in Capel-le-Ferne – where the Queen recently visited to open its new visitor centre – surviving veterans held a service while a beacon was ignited.

There is also a current exhibition at Dartford Borough Museum called Victory and Beyond: Post-War Dartford 1945-1954. It starts with VE Day celebrations in the borough and then examines Dartford life for the following decade as it recovers from the ravages of war.

There was a wreath laying at the Dover War Memorial as well as a charity walk.

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Our new Shed display will be available to view from 15th April, allowing you to have a good look at our most popular ranges, we will also be on hand to answer any questions you may have about the sheds and instillation.

Lotus sheds are the final result of two years research and development by those who have been involved with light clad metal sheds for many years. A combined effort between a factory with brand new steel roll forming equipment and a research team have now produced a shed which is stronger, more durable, easier to build. This is, quite simply, a revolutionary development in the category of light clad metal sheds at a price that presents the best value available.

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The stylish Black Rattan Furniture set (£224.95) offers you a sofa to lounge in with accompanying matching chairs and a toughened glass table, perfect to entertain your friends around. Choose from our range of garden umbrellas and parasols (from £9.99) to add some shade from the rays.

If you are looking for something just that little bit different then why not choose our vibrant Lime Green 6 Piece Furniture Set (£119.99) or for total relaxation go online and check out the Gravity Reclining Sun Lounger,
modern and comfortable and easily manoeuvrable, folds up to save space.

With furniture sets from two people to six seats there is something to suit almost everyone from your local online store.

After watering your garden with one or our many different type of hoses and other accessories you may want to have something which is more relaxing, why not look at our swinging hammocks? We have two seat and three seater hammocks available, complete with canopy so you are out of the sun and can swing your cares away whilst watching the kids play in the pool or enjoying a classic game like swing tennis and hop scotch plus more, which are also available.

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The Sun Shade & Lil Captain pools (perfect for protecting the smaller ones on the hotter days), Pirate ship pool, Dinoland Play Centre, Basketball Pool, Mermaid Play Centre, Gator Pool & Slide & the Ride ons.

Garden Living

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Is Apple making time run out for the traditional wristwatch?

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

AS APPLE's super sophisticated new smart watches start to roll off the production line, one expert in the county has declared them nothing more than a fad.

The sleek devices from the electronics giant finally started shipping two weeks ago. But most pre-orders will not start to be sent out to eager gadget fans until June - such was the initial demand.

Linking with your smart phone, the cheapest start at £300 but you can pay up to £13,500 depending on the strap.

But top timepiece technician Roland Hooper, who runs Vintage Watch Repairs in Maidstone, told us: "They won't last."

He says that while undoubtedly clever, they are simply too small to be a big hit.

He said: "I have a Samsung phone, so I am well aware of what these things are capable of. But when it comes to trying to read your calendar and appointments on a tiny two inch screen, a lot of people are going to struggle.

"The youngsters have great eyes and those that can afford the new Apple watch and other similar devices, will probably get one.

"But they are expensive, and will always be replaced with the next generation, quickly making everything obsolete. The first generation will hold their value a little better because all originals do.

"But future generations will rapidly lose money. Take an £8,000 Rolex for instance – that value will only go up, all of them.

"Spending that sort of money on an Apple watch is crazy. They are certainly very clever, but that screen size will always hold them back from a much bigger market."

Mark Leach has run his watchmaking company in Wrotham since 1988. He told us the damage to traditional purely mechanical watches was done in the 1970s with the advent of the quartz movement, the internal 'motor' of every timepiece.

He said: "I think the Apple watch and others are just the natural next step.

"A lot of my work now is on watches that are more than 50 years old, and my biggest problem is finding parts.

"The manufacturers of these parts went out of business a long time ago. Whereas once I would order from a catalogue and get everything I need, now I have to trawl the internet and seek used parts from around the world. If the internet wasn't there, I would have to turn a lot of people down.

"Now, people like me are getting in second hand movements and cannibalising them for parts.

"I am not against this new technology and look forward to trying a new Apple watch. It is just the natural way things are going."

He has comprehensive workshops on the premises where they do many repairs and services.

Mr Leach said: "We make most parts in our onsite machine shops, but we can't do everything. Parts will always be my main issue.

"While the quartz watch was a nail in the coffin of traditional watch making, I have to say wearable technology is just the next nail."

Apple is just the latest company to get into what has been dubbed wearable technology.

Its highly anticipated watches will be priced starting at £299 for the Sport; £479 for a Standard and £8,000 for the luxury edition.

The California-based company is no stranger to innovation. When it introduced the iPhone it transformed the smart phone market, and its iPad ushered in the era of the tablet.

Analysts at Cantor Fitzgerald recently said they thought Apple's shares could soon be worth $180 each, which would value the firm at more than $1 trillion.



INNOVATIVE: But will it last as long as a Rolex?



FAD? Apple has a track record of incredible success



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KOS/15

Magna Carta goes on the road to celebrate its 800th anniversary

A RARE 1300 issue of the Magna Carta, bearing the seal of King Edward I is to form the key part of a special tour to celebrate the 800th anniversary of the original document's approval.

Protected by security guards, the copy – produced just 75 years after the original was issued by King John – was given to Faversham and has remained in the town ever since.

But it will be making a rare sojourn around the county as part of local celebrations.

The exhibition travelling around it received some £80,000 of Heritage Lottery Funding and will tour venues with a strong link to the defining document.

Forming part of the Magna Carta 800 events, the local tour has been dubbed Magna Carta Rediscovered.

Among the stops will be Faversham, Canterbury, Maidstone, Dover, Sandwich and Rochester.

Establishing the foundation of the democracy we value today, the creation of the Magna Carta meant that for the first time everyone had to follow the law – including monarchs.

Issued by King John in 1215, it retains a cornerstone of our democracy to this day.

"Magna Carta 800 is an amazing national anniversary which will help to highlight the most incredible Kent stories and the county's role in the Magna Carta, so it is a great opportunity to drive tourism and get more visitors to come to the county," explained Sandra Matthews-Marsh, CEO of Visit Kent - the tourism organisation behind the exhibition along with partners in the relevant districts.

"For Kent residents it's part of the Kent story and the place that they live in, and it will give them a unique glimpse into a chapter of history where Kent has an enormous part to play.

"It's about reconnecting with the past and thinking about what this means for the future in terms of democracy, the role of law and a lot of the freedoms we enjoy today."

The exhibition will be beginning in Faversham, opening at the Alexander Centre on May 23 before moving on to Canterbury, Maidstone, Dover, Sandwich and Rochester. It will stay for at least two weeks in each town or city.

"Faversham is a very relevant place for the touring exhibition to start," explained Mrs Matthews-Marsh.

Professor of early modern history at the University of Kent, Kenneth Fincham, added: "Faversham has its own Magna Carta, of 1300 - one of the few to survive - and this anniversary gives us the occasion to reflect on its significance, and disseminate to a wider public the latest thinking of Magna Carta's importance at the time and for later generations."

The exhibition will feature interactive displays on the importance of freedom and democracy and the Faversham Charter Collection – one of the largest in the UK with 17 charters dating all the way back to 1252.

And the exhibition is already receiving an enthusiastic response.

Sally Wookey, tourism officer at Faversham Town Council, said: "I am part of the project which includes the touring exhibitions and we are getting bookings now from across the region, from areas like south London and Essex, for groups to come and visit."



HISTORIC: Faversham's copy, left, will be key part of exhibition

During the exhibition's time at Faversham, Professor Fincham will be hosting a series of lectures about the Magna Carta at the Alexander Centre.

Five leading experts in their field will be delivering the programme of free talks, which explore different aspects of the Magna Carta and its role on the emergence of human rights.

This includes a talk by professor of medieval history at Canterbury Christ Church University, Louise Wilkinson, on the Magna Carta in its own time, and a talk by local historian Peter Tann on why Faversham has its own Magna Carta.

Professor Fincham said that the events offered a great chance for people to delve into the history behind the iconic document.

He said: "The document is of immense significance in the history of England, most particularly for one clause, taken up in the USA and in all modern democracies - 'No free man shall be arrested, or imprisoned, or deprived of his property, or outlawed, or exiled or in any way destroyed, nor shall we go against him or send against him, unless by legal judgement of his peers, or by the law of the land'."

And he said that events like this would undoubtedly raise the profile of the county.

"Events at Faversham, Canterbury and elsewhere celebrating Magna Carta are being co-ordinated," he said.

"Faversham, undeservedly, isn't really on the tourist map and should be for its rich history -– a very fine collection of medieval town charters, which will be on display at the Alexander Centre, being just one of a number of attractions."

Other locations include Rochester Cathedral and the Kent History and Library Centre in Maidstone.

"That resource is the epicentre of Kent's history, it holds within it the most enormous treasures," said Mrs Matthews-Marsh.

And at Rochester Cathedral the Textus Roffensis manuscript will also be going on display.

"It's one of the first books of law that dates back to 1120," explained Mrs Matthews-Marsh.

"It's widely recognised as a grandfather of the Magna Carta."

The tour runs May 23-June 28 at Faversham's Alexander Centre; July 2-19, Canterbury's Beaney; The Kent History and Library Centre in Maidstone from July 25-September 6; Dover's Maison Dieu September 10-19; the Guidhall, Sandwich September 24-October 6 and concludes at Rochester Cathedral from October 10 to December 6.

In addition, Faversham will hold a special Magna Carta weekend of events on the streets of the market town between June 13-14.

For details, see community website www.faversham.org for a list of attractions and how you can join in.





CELEBRATE: Faversham's Alexander Centre, right, will start the tour, with the town also hosting a Magna Carta Weekend between June 13-14

Glow starts to fade at Bluewater

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

CHIEFS at Bluewater say they continue to be locked in negotiations about the future of its conference space Glow after it confirmed last month it was to close.

The £60 million facility next door to the hugely popular shopping complex in Greenhithe, had only opened three years ago.

But despite hosting some high profile events – among them televised championship boxing bouts and pop concerts – it failed to gain sufficient bookings to keep it viable.

It is one of the rare failures at Bluewater, which has become one of the most successful retail hubs in the UK since it opened in 1999.

Glow is no longer taking bookings but as to what it will become remains unclear.

Now the Bluewater management are looking for alternatives uses for the halls, and says it is in negotiations with several interested parties.

But a spokesman refused to say what it could be used for in the future.

Glow basically comprises two large main event halls – upstairs and down.

The upper hall measures 3,200 square metres with the lower one a little smaller at 2,000 square metres.

There is also a more intimate 328 square metre VIP gallery space which can accommodate up to 150 people.

Taken together or separately, it should have allowed for huge flexibility to host a whole variety of events and functions.

Even getting in and out for people taking part in events was made easy by avoiding bottlenecks in the Bluewater centre itself.

Depending on the use, there is enough room to hold up to 5,000 people upstairs, and 3,000 downstairs. A ball park hire fee for downstairs is around £7,000 according to Hire Space which handled its bookings.

The nearest comparable centre would be the Excel complex in London's Docklands.

Even a host of bars and restaurants next to Glow was not tempting enough for events managers to make it a regular booking venue.

A spokesman for Bluewater said: "We continually review every aspect of Bluewater to ensure it delivers the very best offer and experience for our guests.

"Whilst welcoming more than two million people in three years, Glow did not meet these high expectations. Detailed discussions are underway with a number of leading brands and exciting concepts to create an offer within the space that adds significantly to Bluewater's unique day-out experience."

Playing their cards close to their chest, Glow refused to confirm it was actually closed for bookings, but a source at contractors Hire Space said they are not suggesting Glow as a venue any longer.

We asked Glow's public relations operation if the venue was closed and what it could be used for in the future, but no one has yet responded.



However, bookings made for later in this year have been cancelled and organisers told to find alternatives.

At its launch, Dan Labbad, boss of Lend Lease Europe, which owns Bluewater, said the event hall was the centre's most significant expansion since opening in 1999, and added: "We're bringing a fresh perspective to retail asset management and we're confident this will be the new model for the industry.

"Glow provides consumers with additional reasons to visit and extend their visit at Bluewater through experiential events and shows."

The reality, however, has been tough – made more challenging by the economic climate.

What has been held have been generally well-received by visitors.

They include a European title fight between Frenchman Hadillah Mohoumadi and Olympic gold medal winner James DeGale.

In addition, there have been wedding and baby and toddler shows, comedy, theatre, ice skating and a host of music concerts.

Performers include the likes of The Saturdays, 911, Kerry Ellis, Atomic Kitten, Liberty X, Honeys, B*Witched, Lovable Rogues and Amelia Lily.



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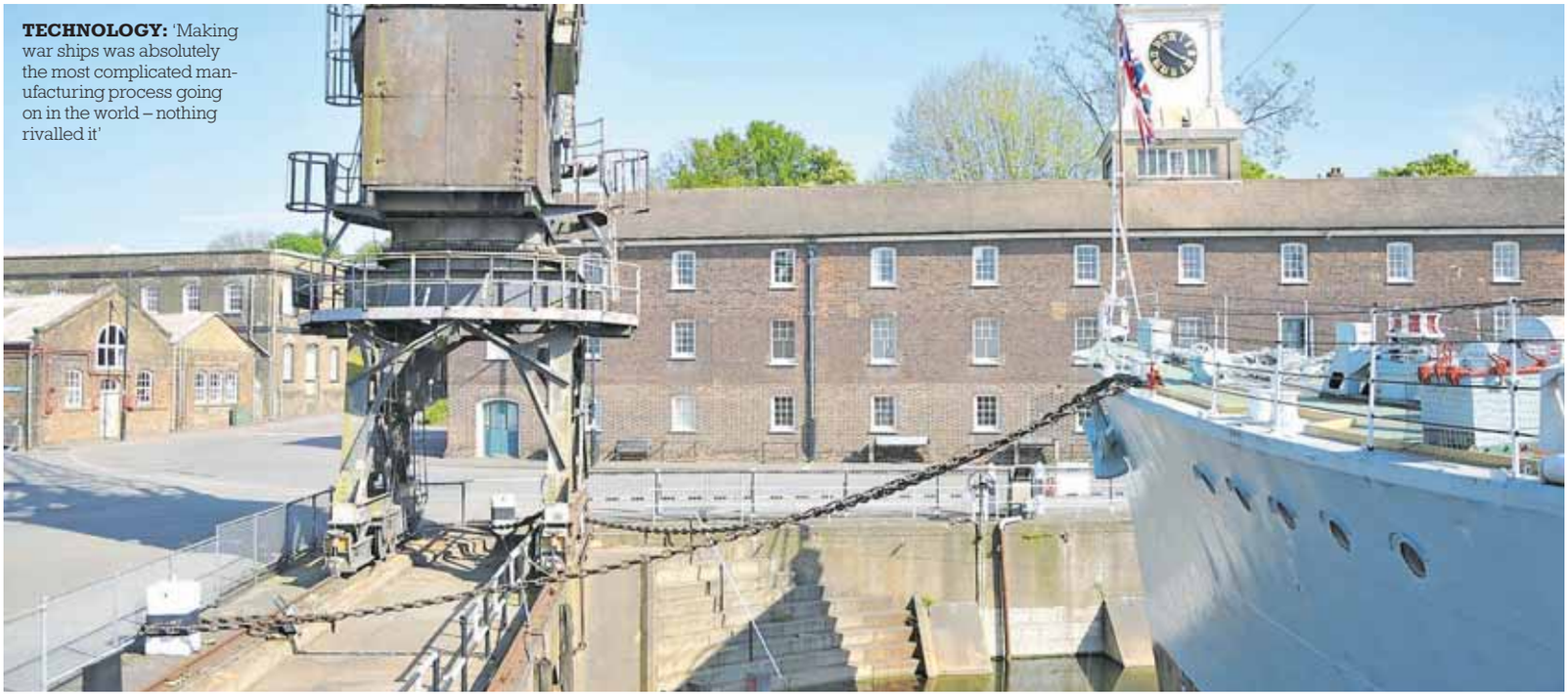
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TECHNOLOGY: 'Making war ships was absolutely the most complicated manufacturing process going on in the world – nothing rivalled it'

Shedding light on lives of 'space craft makers' of the 18th century

Kent Archaeological Society has copied the wills of some of Chatham's shipwrights from the 1700s so this valuable source of social history is available online to researchers, writes **Maria Chiorando...**

AS A society, we continue to remain thoroughly intrigued by the secret lives of our ancestors.

Especially those relatives who worked in industries that defined the county – including shipbuilders at Chatham's dockyard.

Now a member of the Kent Archaeological Society (KAS) has been transcribing the wills of Chatham's 18th century shipwrights, and indexing them online to help reveal details of their lives.

Ian Coulson is the president of KAS, an organisation that aims to promote the study and publication of archaeology and history within the county.

He says: "The wills were transcribed by Mr Williams, who chose to do it because of his family connections with the trade, and they are all for individuals who lived and worked mainly in the Chatham area from 1710 to 1795."

According to Mr Coulson, searching for documents that were written before 1858 is often difficult for family historians so having transcripts freely available off the KAS website can be helpful.

He says: "Wills contain hidden clues for family and social history research, inferences can be made about family relationships and business.

"The wills begin with religious preamble. They sometimes include charitable bequests and usually include provision for the widow and children (see box).

"The profession of the children is sometimes mentioned, and wills often include small bequests for sentimental reason or to friends."

By the 18th century, when this collection of wills were written, the dockyards were well established, and heavily populated by workers.

Shipwrights, also known as shipbuilders, were the lynchpin of dockyards because of the range and amount of labour they would undertake.

Mr Coulson says: "By the end of the 17th century, 40 per cent of apprenticeships were related to the river and docks.

"The wills help tell aspects of the story of the Medway shipwrights whose skills and industry eventually led to 12,000 tons of timber being imported annually into the dockyards in the first ten years of the 19th century creating one of Britain's major new industries."

But what exactly did they do?

Richard Holdsworth is the director of preservation and education at the Chatham Dockyard, now a popular tourist attraction having been closed back in 1984.

He says: "Shipwrights come in many different forms. There are those who are working cutting timber, and others who are at the level of ship design, and destined to go on to higher places. There's a two-tier system of shipwritery.

"The top tier were very well-respected and well-paid. On the second tier, there were a lot of father and sons who ended up working together. Those who were given patronage would have received a solid, technical education. It was a reasonably well-paid job for those on the second tier."

Explaining why the Chatham docks are of such historical importance he says: "The dockyard here is the best preserved in the world, the different aspects of the work that was undertaken here throughout the ages can still be seen today.

"An awful lot of ship building has gone on here throughout the years. The Navy moved to the River Medway, from Portsmouth, in 1559. At that time, the Navy wasn't a standing force, which means it was put to bed when it wasn't needed, and was moored in reserve.

"Around then, maintenance was done in Chatham, while much of the building was done in Woolwich and Deptford. The first ship built here was the Merlin in 1579.

"To put the scale of the labour here into context, there were about 500 shipwrights employed. The largest employer in London at the time employed just 12 people."

Mr Coulson adds: "A man called Matthew Baker was the first master shipwright and principal officer of the dockyards here.

"He directed the maintenance of ships and was responsible for the building of some of the first ships on the Medway. The dockyards increased in size rapidly, with 3,000 men employed to rig the ships before the Armada in 1588."

Shipbuilding was not the only activity going on in and around the docks.

Mr Holdsworth says: "There were all sorts of ancillary trades that went alongside it, rope making, for example, as well as caulking [a process of sealing joints or seams in structures]. There were around 26 in total."

The trade was a complex one, explains Mr Holdsworth. "Making war ships was absolutely the most complicated manufacturing process going on in the world – nothing rivalled it" he says.

"The equivalent nowadays is building something like jumbo jets, or maybe space craft. It was cutting edge technology."

EXCERPTS FROM THE WILLS

RICHARD Pinney, of Chatham, wrote his will on September 1, 1713.

"I Richard Pinney of Chatham in the county of Kent shipwright being sick and weak in body but of sound and disposing mind & memory (praised be God for the same) doe make publish and declare this my last will and testament in writing in manner and forme following that is to say in the first place I commend my soul into the hands of Almighty God my creator in and thro the meritts and intercession of my Savoiour Jesus Christ and my body I committ to the earth."

Richard Wye of Chatham wrote his will on September 22, 1727.

"All my goods chattells credits wages and estate whatsoever of what nature kind or quality soever the same be moveable and immoveable wherewith at the time of my decease I shall be possessed of or intitled in or which shall belong or of right of appertaine unto me I give and bequeath unto my well beloved wife Elinor and I make nominate and appoint the said Elinor Wye the whole and sole executrix of this my last will and testament."

CHARLES Handley wrote his will on March 3, 1713.

"I give and bequeath unto Thomas Gray of the city of Canterbury aforesd. gardener and to Margery Henwood of the city of Rochester in the said county of Kent widow and to John Butler of the same fisherman and to John Dickeson of the same (now apprentice to with Matthew Webb hatter) and to Sarah Bennett wife of Hugh Bennett of St. Eulys Street London dyer and to every of them the sume of tenn pounds of like money to be all paid out of the moneys ariseing by sale of my said house"

Demonstrators gather as appeal over countryside proposal starts

by Sarah Linney
sarah.linney@archant.co.uk

A CONTROVERSIAL development in the countryside near Leeds Castle is back on the agenda again this week as the company behind it tries to overturn a double rejection by planners.

Dozens of demonstrators gathered outside Sessions House, in Maidstone, as the public inquiry into the Waterside Park development at Hollingbourne, near junction 8 of the M20, began on Wednesday.

The application – for light industrial premises and warehouses on 39 acres of farmland – was refused by Maidstone Borough Council in February last year on the grounds of its effect on the countryside. It was resubmitted with alterations, and rejected again in October.

But developer Gallagher Properties appealed, saying that the jobs the site would provide have to be the prime consideration.

The resulting independent inquiry, which will consider the arguments for and against the development, is expected to last for two more weeks.

But there's no guarantee that all the evidence will be able to be heard within that time – meaning the whole process could go on for months more.

The council said the application would be "detrimental to the character and appearance of the countryside, the setting of heritage assets to the south and the setting of the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty."



CLOSE: The proposed site is near Leeds Castle

The Kent branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England, which has been one of the development's most vocal opponents, says it would cause traffic, noise, light and air pollution and could damage tourism because of its proximity to Leeds Castle.

The charity is providing evidence to the inquiry from organisations including the Ramblers, Leeds Castle and local businesses, as well as itself. Sixteen parish councils have also opposed the plans.

"The scheme would be detrimental to the important heritage setting of Leeds Castle and there is a risk that the accidental discharge of fuel oil or hazardous substances could pollute the water supply and the River Len," it said in a statement.

"Any development on this site would harm the landscape, have an unacceptable impact on tranquillity, could lead to water pollution and would mean the loss of land needed for food security."

The Kent CPRE's senior planner Brian Lloyd added: "This is greenfield land in the open countryside, where development should not be allowed under both local and national planning policies.

"We would seriously question the claimed economic benefits to Maidstone as it will just as likely attract employees from Ashford and other parts of the county with its proximity to the motorway.

"There is no justification for developing in this location when considerable employment land has already been identified in areas such as Ashford, Swale and Canterbury which would not impact on an AONB and one of the county's prime heritage and tourist sites."

Bearsted ward councillor Mike Cuming was also not in favour of the site.

"It is a humungous development and totally inappropriate for the area," he said.

"It is argued that it would remove traffic from the middle of town and the country roads, as it would go straight onto the motorway, but we may still end up with the traffic – and we might get other companies from elsewhere coming into the development and creating more traffic.

"If it's warehousing, it's not going to create jobs other than a few forklift truck drivers."

Nick Yandle, from developer Gallagher Properties, said he did not wish to give a lengthy interview "out of respect for the inspector and the due process of the inquiry", but was willing to put his case briefly.

"We consider it important to provide good quality, long-term employment to people in and around Maidstone, and we believe there is a strong need for this employment site," Mr Yandle said.

"It is all the more important with the large job losses in the public sector, and at a time when the population of Maidstone is growing.

"To attract investment for new employment the site must be readily accessible to the highway network.

"This makes Waterside Park extremely well located, as it is just 400 metres from junction eight of the M20."

And he denied the development would destroy the countryside.

"It's a question of degree – and on the other side it could be said that not giving permission is destruction of employment," Mr Yandle argued.

"The field is arable farmland – surrounding features like woodland and ponds are outside the site and would not be affected.

"The tranquillity is already seriously affected by traffic on the A20, the M20 and the rail link.

"Cutting into the land means much of the development would be screened, so visual impact is minimised. Water pollution is easily prevented through design, and the food production is relatively modest in quantum."

The development had been backed by Marden firms Scarab Sweepers and Automotive Distributors Ltd, (ADL) both of whom intend to move there.

However, ADL say they need to find a new home and have had to withdraw their support amid the uncertainty.

"We were very keen. It fitted a lot of our requirements," managing director Mark Northeast explained to KoS.

"We have run out of space. We need somewhere bigger.

"At the moment we are spread across different warehouses in Marden - as we have grown we have had to take what's available. The new location would have given us the opportunity to have our head office and distribution facility all in one place - it's not very efficient for a business to have to move products around, and it doesn't make it easy for us to be competitive for the longer term.

"Getting truckloads of products to Marden also isn't great - they have to come all the way through Maidstone from the motorway, which adds a lot of time and cost."

He said the company may now have to move out of the county.

"There are no guarantees that the development will be approved, so we have had to withdraw our support – it's fallen outside our time criteria," Mr Northeast explained.

"It's disappointing - there are not a huge amount of good sites in Kent. We are still looking at options – we have been here since we set up 25 years ago, but we are looking at options in Kent and outside."

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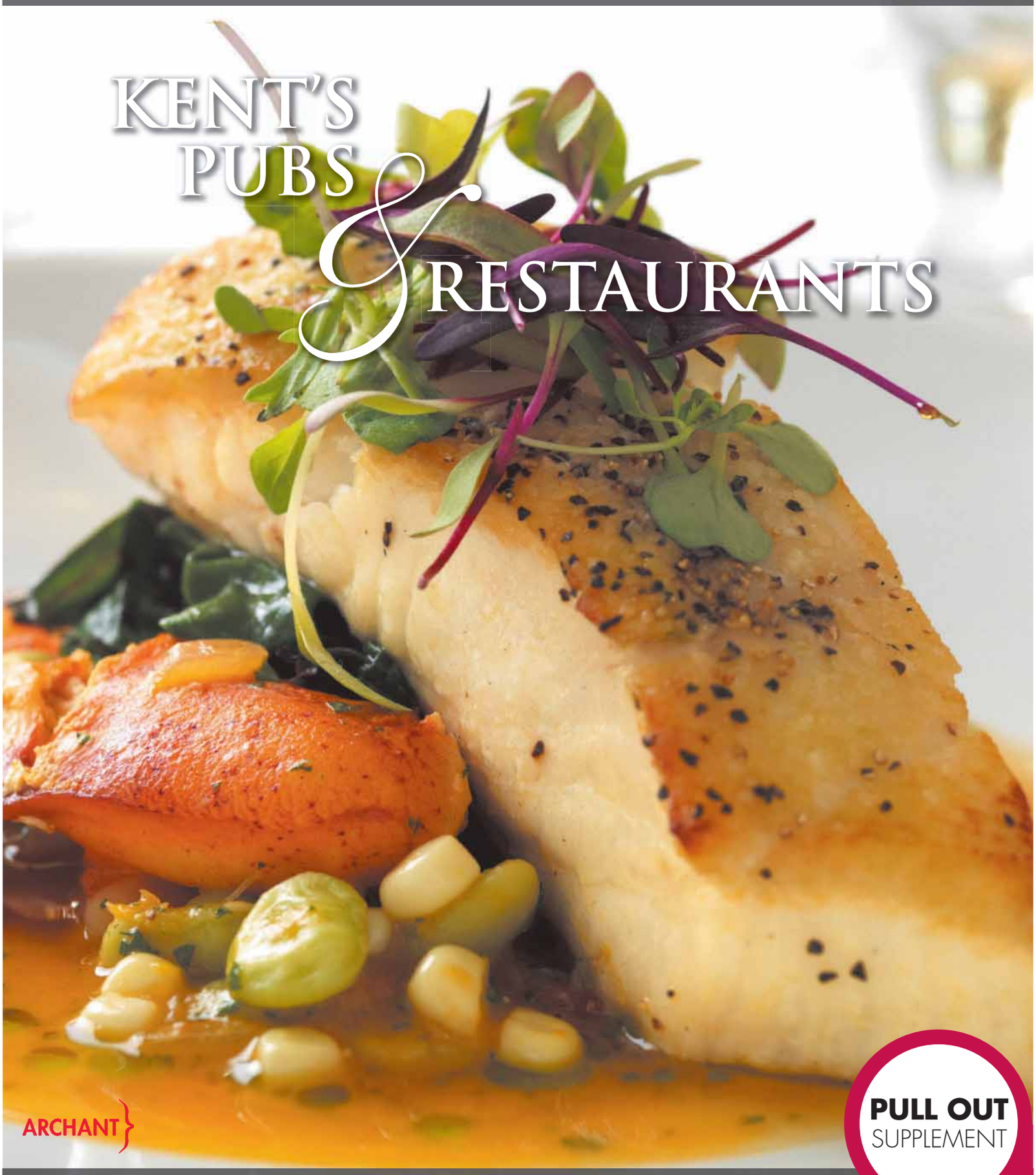
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...about the rustic coziness of The Angel Inn? Dating back to 1378, it has retained its charm, boasting low beamed ceilings and a open fire place. The converted stables house our unique restaurant area, that can comfortably seat groups of up to ten people. We also have two en-suite guest rooms.

The Angel is a great pub for all seasons, with the garden and terrace dining area. The friendly atmosphere and ancient countryside setting is a pleasant accompaniment to a wholesome meal on a chilly night or summers day.

Ingredients are locally sourced to make the dishes found on our varied main menu and daily specials board. Our home made pies are to die for and for those with a sweet tooth, the specialty sticky toffee pudding is a must. Prices range from 3.95 for snacks to 14.95 for the priciest main course.

Food Served: Mon-Thur: noon till 2.30pm, 6.00pm till 9.30. Fri-Sun: noon till 9.30.
Bar: Open all day from 11.30am till late.



...The helpful and friendly team looks forward to making your visit a wonderful time in this historic Kentish hostelry

BETWEEN THE BOTTOM OF THE HILL AND THE DEEP BLUE SEA

The Coastguard Pub & Restaurant isn't hard to find.

Head for the sound of the waves lapping against the white cliffs of Dover, follow the delicious aroma of local produce cooking in a busy kitchen, search out the glint of freshly poured ale. When the English Channel is about your toes, you'll be there

Admittedly, it's a location hard to beat. A pub with its own beach and views across to France when the weather's clear. Couples say it's decidedly romantic; families say it's great fun

Its true that when you get to us your mobile phone might think you're already in France (it is only 23 miles away) but The Coastguard prides itself on being an entirely British-orientated seaside "home from home".

We'd love to see you soon.
The Coastguard - your home by the sea



50 minutes from London
40 minutes from Calais
2 seconds from the sea

St Margaret's Bay, near Dover,
www.thecoastguard.co.uk | 01304 853176

CHUMMYS

www.chummys.co.uk

Stalls across Kent

Maidstone
Welling
Ashford
(dobbies)
Sidcup
Ascot
Folkestone

a guide to KENT'S PUBS & RESTAURANTS

ASHFORD



BADSHA
10 West Cross, Tenderden, TN30 6JL
01580 765151

Authentic Bangladeshi and Indian Cuisine. Fully licensed. Established 1986
Badsha recommends: Tandoori Chicken, Sheek Kebab, Lamb Tikka, Papadom, Chicken Tikka Bhoona, Lam Pasanda, Nawabi Fresh Begun Bhajee, Pulau Rice and Nan. Plus sweet and coffee.

Open seven days a week including bank holidays: 12 noon - 2.30pm & 6pm - 11.30pm

ASHFORD



THE BULL INN
Bethersden, Ashford, TN26 3LB
01233 820534
www.shepherdneame.co.uk/pubs/ashford/bull-inn

The Bull Inn is an ancient inn dating back to 1645. It is much loved for its comfortable and well presented bars, with a wealth of old beams - as you would expect from such an historic building; it also has an inviting old inglenook fireplace with huge sofas to relax in, while board games are available to entertain both kids and adults. Outside is just as pleasing - a large, mature, and immaculately kept garden, with a large patio area and plenty of space for children to play - and ample car parking space.

Open : Monday – Sunday 12.00 – 11.00pm
Food served Mon – Fri 12.00 – 15.00 17.30 – 21.30
Saturday 12.00- 21.30 Sunday 12.00 – 16.00

ASHFORD



EVEREST INN
113 Station Road, Ashford TN23 1PJ
01233 643643
www.everestinnashford.co.uk

Everest Inn Ashford is the latest addition to the Everest Inn Group of restaurants. It is the ambassador of fine cuisine with a spacious dining area. The restaurant is great for both indoor and outdoor dining. The bar area is well stocked to create a combination of excellence with our unique, fine and well balanced recipes..
10% discount on takeaway collections.

Mon – Fri lunch 12.30 – 3 dinner 5.30pm – 11pm
Sat & Sun Lunch all day dinner 12 – 11pm

ASHFORD



TRATTORIA ROMANA
32 Bank Street, Ashford, TN23 3QA
01233 638033

Traditional Italian cuisine restaurant offering daily specials and fresh produce. As well as the fine a la carte menu with daily changing specials, offering set menu throughout the week.

Try our Set Lunch Menus for 3 courses £13 and 2 courses £10 and main course only £7 Monday to Friday. Our set dinner menu is just £19 for a 4 course meal Monday to Thursday.

Open for lunch Mon to Sat 12-2:00pm, open for dinner 6pm to 10pm Mon to Sat.

BROADSTAIRS



CAPTAIN DIGBY
Whiteness Road, Broadstairs, CT10 3QH
01843 867764
www.captaindigby.co.uk

An award winning family restaurant which is one of the most popular places to dine in Thanet all year round. Family friendly bar and restaurant catering for all ages over looking the beautiful Kingsgate Bay. A great variety of dishes including - from the deep - hot & spicy - the grill - Captains burgers - traditional British fayre - plus a full menu for the smaller appetite.

Monday - Saturday 11am - 11pm
with food served 12noon - 9.30pm

Sunday 12noon - 10.30pm
food served 12noon - 4pm.

BROADSTAIRS



THE TARTAR FRIGATE
Harbour Street, Broadstairs, CT10 1EU
01843 862013
www.tartarfrigate.co.uk

Widely renowned as one of the best seafood restaurants in Kent, the Harbour restaurant boasts stunning panoramic views over Viking Bay in Broadstairs. If seafood isn't for you then you can take advantage of the extensive menu, which also includes mouth-watering traditional dishes from around the world.

Opening Times:
Restaurant: Mon – Sat 12pm – 1.45pm
& 7pm – 9.15pm Sun 12.30pm – 3.30pm
(two sittings)
Bar: Mon – Sat 12pm – 1.45pm

BROADSTAIRS



THE CHARLES DICKENS
5-6 Victoria Parade, Broadstairs, CT10 1QS
01843 600160
www.charlesdickensbroadstairs.co.uk

The Charles Dickens Pub is one of the largest pubs in Broadstairs, with the main bar downstairs serving great pub food, fine wine and ales and the Copperfields restaurant and bar upstairs commanding excellent views of Viking Bay.

Opening Times:
Mon 10am – 11pm, Tues 10am – 11am
Wed 10am – 11pm, Thurs 10am – 11pm
Fri 10am – 12am, Sat 9am – 12am
Sunday 9am – 11pm

CANTERBURY



THE CRICKETERS
14 St Peters Street, Canterbury, TN23 1BA
01227 464227
cricketerscanterbury.co.uk

The Cricketers is a traditional English pub on the busy High Street, in the centre of Canterbury. Serving traditional English pub fayre of the highest quality, such as fish and chips with fresh cod delivered daily by a local supplier, as well as real ales and lagers, kept to 'Cask Marque' standards from a local independent brewery The Cricketers has a warm, friendly and welcoming atmosphere.

Opening Times:
Sun 11:30 - 22:30 : Mon - Thu 11:30 - 23:00
Fri 11:30 - 0:00 : Sat 11:30 - 2:00

CHATHAM

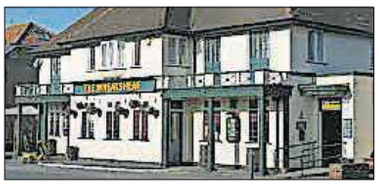


WAGGON AT HALE
179 Capstone Rd, Chatham, ME5 7PP
01634 400800
www.waggonathale.com

The Waggon at Hale is an independent family run traditional country pub situated on Capstone Road, Chatham. Emma and her team are here to offer you a warm and friendly welcome whether you are looking for somewhere to have a good pint of real ale or a glass of wine or looking to dine on our freshly prepared food served all day everyday.

Opening Times:
Mon-Sat: 10am - 11pm Sun: 10am - 10pm

CHESTFIELD



THE WHEATSHEAF
74 Herne Bay, Whitstable, CT5 2LU
01227 792310
www.hungryhorse.co.uk

The Wheatsheaf is to be found in the quiet village of Swalecliffe, not far from Canterbury and Thanet. Built in the 1930s the inside has decor of warm welcoming colours of red and burgundy with a large restaurant and bar area. This is the perfect family friendly venue for visiting after a day at the seaside. Families are welcome all round the pub. Fantastic food is served all day and there's also a great children's menu with favourites for them to enjoy.

Opening Times: Monday – Friday 11 – 23.00
Saturday 10-23.00 Sunday – 10-22.30

FAVERSHAM



THE ALMA
Eastling Road, Faversham, ME13 0DU
01795 533835
www.thealmafaversham.co.uk

Friendly village pub offering traditional English food. Starters include baked camembert and whitebait. Mains include our renowned Steak and Kidney Pudding. Our evening menu includes Loin of Pork with Apple and Fig Stuffing.

Opening Times:
Weekdays: 11.00 - 3.00 & 6.00 – 11.30
Sunday: 12.00 – 4.00 & 6.30 – 10.30

FAVERSHAM



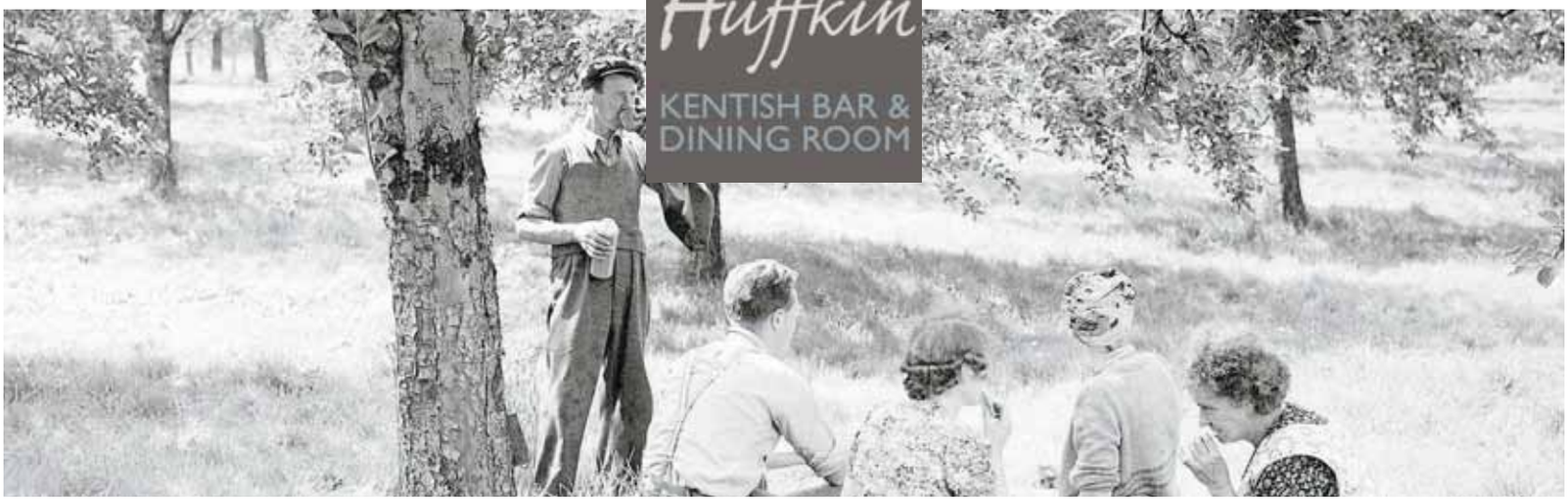
THE ANCHOR
52 Abbey St, Faversham, ME13 7BP
01795 536471
www.anchor-pub.co.uk

The Anchor Inn is a beautiful 300 year old pub, just a few minutes walk from Faversham town centre at the terminus of Abbey Street, one of the finest preserved medieval streets in England, and very close to the historic Faversham creek. With a variety of real ales on hand, live music every Sunday evening and a peaceful garden, The Anchor is well-worth seeking out and a great place to stop when enjoying a stroll through historic Faversham.

Opening Times: Mon – Sun 12 – 23.30

The Hop and Huffkin

KENTISH BAR & DINING ROOM



SERVING KENTISH PRODUCE IN THE HEART OF SANDWICH

MORNING, NOON AND NIGHT

KENT BREAKFAST
FROM THE GARDEN OF ENGLAND

PRODUCED IN KENT

The Hop and Huffkin provides a contemporary, casual and relaxed dining and bar experience serving great Kentish food from an original menu. We are passionate about supporting the local economy and as members of Produced in Kent we source our produce from local suppliers whenever possible. Our food has fantastic Kentish ingredients and our bar is stocked with local wines, spirits, beers, ciders, fruit juices and mineral waters which are also produced in Kent.





DINING ROOM TIMES

- Monday to Saturday: Breakfast to Dinner 10:00 to 21:30
- Sunday: Breakfast to Roast Lunch 10:00 to 16:00

BAR LICENCE TIMES

- Monday to Saturday 11.00 to 22.30
- Sunday 11.00 to 22.00

LIVE MUSIC EVENINGS

- Tuesday: Live Music and a Pie and Pint for £10.00
- Sunday: See website for full Event details

2 minutes from the Guildhall car park and bus stop
5 minutes from Sandwich station

Hop In...we're open all day from 10:00

10 New Street, Sandwich, Kent, CT13 9AB | 01304 448560 | www.hopandhuffkin.co.uk

a guide to KENT'S PUBS & RESTAURANTS

FOLKESTONE



CHUMMYS
Ocean House 94a Dover Rd, CT20 1LA
01303 251712
www.chummys.co.uk

Awarded "Best seafood stall in England" by the English Heritage. We offer the finest seafood in Kent.
Offering in and outside dining. This fine restaurant offers a large variety of fresh sea food with stunning views of the Folkestone Harbour, and you can dine inside or sit outside and enjoy the scenery.

Opening Times: Friday 11.45 to 6.00
Saturday 11.00 to 6.00 Sunday 11.00 to 5.30

FOLKESTONE



EL CORTADOR TAPAS
41 The Old High Street, CT20 1RL
01303 243974
www.elcortadorfolkestone.com

El Cortador serves traditional Spanish tapas. Dishes are made from traditional recipes and many ingredients are sourced from Spain. The menu changes with the availability of seasonal produce and daily specials – variety is the spice of life! Tapas are a wonderfully sociable way to eat, food like life, is best shared with friends and loved ones, so with that in mind we have tried to create a traditional relaxed atmosphere for you all to come and enjoy a taste of Spain. So whether you're looking for a coffee or a snack at lunchtime, a quick drink or bite to eat before hitting the town - El Cortador is the place to come.

Opening Times: Tuesday - Saturday 11am to 3pm & 6pm to 10pm, Sunday and Monday Closed

FOLKESTONE



GOOGIES
15 Rendezvous Street, CT20 1EY
01303 246188
http://googies.co.uk/

In the heart of Folkestone, serving gourmet style street food., artisan coffee & craft beers. All beef is free range, Dexter from Sladden Farm
Our beef is 100% fresh single source grass-fed rare breed Dexter beef because it is better for you, tastes better and is better for the planet.

Opening Hours: Mon-Tue: 9.30am-6pm
Wed & Thu: 9.30am-9pm
Fri & Sat: 9am-11pm Sun: 9am-6pm

FOLKESTONE



THE GRAND
The Leas, Folkestone, CT20 2XL
01304 222222
www.grand-uk.com/Index.htm

The Grand has an unrivalled position on the South Coast, with stunning views of the award winning Coastal Park and the busy Channel shipping lanes. For Fine dining there is nothing better than The Palm Court, Folkestone's finest rendezvous, with its unique ambience, Live Weekend Pianist and superb views of the English Channel. For something more casual, try a pint of "The Grand Ale" in Keppels, which has its own unique atmosphere, and London-style wine bar feel. Finally for Morning Coffee or Afternoon Tea, why not Visit the Salon de Thé and try a delicious homemade Scone and Tea-Pigs tea.

Opening Hours:
Fri 15.00-22.00pm, Sat noon-22.00pm, Sun noon-18.00pm

GILLINGHAM



THE DOG AND BONE
21 Jeffery Street, Gillingham, ME7 1DE
01634 786427

Traditional Free House just off Gillingham High Street. Regular entainment and decent sized beer garden.

Try our Sunday Carvery from 1:30 to 4pm with a choice of 5 meats for just £5.95

Wed, Thurs, Fri from 5pm & Sat from 1pm
Try our Sizzling Steaks from £5
Burgers from £2

Opening Hours: 12noon to 11pm – Mon to Fri; 11am to 11pm Sat; 12noon to 10.30pm Sun

GRAVESEND



THE BATTLE OF BRITAIN
Coldharbour Road, DA11 8NT
01474 248451
battleofbritainpub.co.uk

The Battle of Britain pub is family friendly and has a large garden with FREE inflatable slide and maze. We serve food all day every day. We have a Steak and Rotisserie restaurant, serving T-bone, Sirloin, Rump and Rib-Eye steaks as well as rotisserie chickens. Plus a selection of 100% beef burgers including the famous 1lb Battle Burger. On Sundays we also offer a Sunday Roast, where kids eat free with each adult roast ordered.

Open Mon – Sun 12am-12pm

HARBLEDOWN



THE OLD COACH AND HORSES
Church Hill, Harbledown, CT2 9AB
01227 766609
theoldcoachandhorses.co.uk

The Old Coach and Horses is the Village Pub in the heart of the picturesque village of Harbledown. Serving a large selection of local cask ales, lagers and fine wines from local and independent brewers and vineyards. Our food is freshly prepared and of the highest quality, using local suppliers and seasonal produce.

Open: Tue - Fri 11:30 - 15:00 and 17:30 - 23:00
Sat 11:30 - 15:00 and 18:00 - 23:00
Sun 11.30 – 16.00

HERNHILL



THE RED LION
Crockham Lane, Hernhill, ME13 9JR
01227 751207
www.theredlion.org

A picturesque 14th Century pub situated in a small village near the town of Faversham. Surrounded in history. The pub dates back to the 1300s and still contains many original features. The pub offers a selection of traditional English food alongside frequently changing seasonal specials. Facilities include an upstairs restaurant, available for dining or large functions, a front patio overlooking the church and village green and a well established pub garden with many historical features and a large play area for children.

Opening Hours: Mon – Sat 11.30am -11pm
Sun 12pm -10.30pm

HERNHILL



THE THREE HORSESHOES
Staple Street, Hernhill, ME13 9UA
01227 750842

Pretty 17th Century pub, in lovely location. The Three Horseshoes holds regular themed evenings each month but the pub's overwhelming theme every day is friendliness. Everyone receives a warm welcome, even their dog! So if you want a traditional pub with customers as great as their food and beer then look no further than the Three Horseshoes. And the food is something to savour with fish and chips on Tuesdays for £5 and traditional roast dinners on Sundays from £13.95 for two courses and £15.95 for three courses.

Open Mon 5-11pm, Tues to Thurs 12-3pm & 5-11pm, Fri, Sat & Sun 12-11pm

HIGHAM



GARDENERS ARMS
2 Forge Lane, Higham, ME3 7AS
01474 823901
www.gardenersarmshigham.com

The Gardeners Arms Higham is situated in the historical village of Higham, where you will find the home of Charles Dickens at Gad's Hill. We pride ourselves in being a friendly pub, offering a great selection of real ales and fine wines and wide selection of home cooked food.

Mon to Thurs – 11am to 11pm,
Fri to Sat – 11am to 12 midnight,
Sun – 11am to 10:30pm.

HYTHE



SALTWOOD ON THE GREEN
The Green, Saltwood, CT21 4PS
01303 237800
www.saltwoodrestaurant.co.uk

We are an intimate, neighbourhood restaurant located at the heart of the picturesque village of Saltwood. Whether your passion is exploring exciting but simple food that reflects the seasons, a great coffee to accompany a lazy brunch or a cocktail and light bite, there is genuinely something for all.

Opening hours: Wednesday - Saturday 9 - 3 and 6 - 11, Sunday 11:30 - 5

MARGATE



CRESCENT VICTORIA
25-26 Fort Crescent, CT9 1HX
01843 230375
crescentvictoria.co.uk

This exciting new hotel and restaurant in the boutique British style has stunning views over Margate. We've created a very special place where your enjoyment and relaxation is our first consideration. Modern Margate is a vivid mixture of seaside tradition and cutting-edge culture, and you'll see all of that reflected in the design and décor of the Crescent Victoria Hotel. The cool, contemporary Theatre View Restaurant and Bar offers delicious, locally-sourced produce and is open daily for breakfast, morning coffee, lunch, afternoon tea and evening meals. We look forward to welcoming you to the Crescent Victoria – we're confident that you'll love the atmosphere not just here, but in Margate too.

Opening Times: Mon – Sun 6.30pm – 10pm



1 Douglas Ave, Hythe, Kent CT21 5JT

01303 267912

Hythe Brasserie
on the avenue

a modern restaurant LOCATED IN THE HEART OF SALTWOOD VILLAGE
WHERE YOU EXPERIENCE inspired culinary delights
fresh & seasonal INGREDIENTS THAT ARE LOCALLY SOURCED WHEREVER WE CAN
SO COME & JOIN US FOR lunch or dinner OR JUST TO SAMPLE SOME OF THE FINEST
coffee WE ALSO SERVE SOME CRACKING cocktail creations



SALTWOOD ON THE GREEN



Open from Tuesday - Saturday 9am - 3pm and 6pm - 11pm;
Sunday 11:30am - 5pm
www.saltwoodrestaurant.co.uk • 01303 237 800



The Red Lion



NEW MENU NOW AVAILABLE

Chargrill and our own Smokery Section.
All Local Produce where possible.



Steak Night *2 for £26.95*

including wine
Wednesday and Thursday night



Champagne bar

Available for your wedding birthday,
anniversary and all your celebrations



Sunday Lunch

1 course £10.50, 2 courses £13.50,
3 courses £15.50



Circa 1364 Crockham Lane, Hernhill, Kent, ME13 9JR **01227 751207** **www.theredlion.org**

a guide to KENT'S PUBS & RESTAURANTS

MARGATE



THE HOLLY TREE
382 Northdown Road, Margate CT9 3PG
01843 221817
www.hollytreepub.co.uk

A warm welcome to our family friendly pub, offering delicious homemade food and a wide range of lager, cider, fine wines and real ales.

Showing live sport on BT and Sky in HD, live music every weekend, a large beer garden and bouncy castle, The Holly Tree is perfect for all the family.

Opening Hours:
Mon - Thurs: 11.00 - 23.00
Fri-Sat: 11.00 - 01.30 Sun: 12.00 - 22.30
Happy Hour Monday – Friday 4pm till 6pm

MARGATE



SANDS HOTEL BAY
High Street, Margate, CT9 1DS
01843 228228
www.sandshotelmargate.co.uk

Sands Hotel Bay Restaurant offers an elegant yet modern dining experience with panoramic views over the stunning Margate sands. The indulgent, seasonal menus celebrate locally sourced produce; including a favourite amongst diners of locally caught seafood.

Open: Mon-Thurs 07.00-21.00
Fri 07.00 – 21.30 | Sat 08.00 – 21.30
Sun 08.00 – 21.00 (Last orders)

RAMSGATE



SIR STANLEY GRAY BAR & RESTAURANT
81 Pegwell Rd, Ramsgate, CT11 0NG
01843 599590
www.pegwellbayhotel.co.uk

Come and join us for Sunday Lunch in the fabulous surroundings of our Clifton Dining room where we serve food from 12 midday until 4pm. With a selection of Roast dinners being offered alongside our main menu, come and indulge in our home cooked delights and enjoy the views across the bay; there really isn't a better setting to enjoy a relaxing Sunday afternoon.

Opening Times: Monday - Saturday 11am - 11pm
Sunday 11.30am - 11pm

RAMSGATE



THE LITTLE ALBION
40 St Peters Road, Ramsgate CT10 2AP
01843 447033
www.thelittlealbion.co.uk

A friendly village pub serving a good selection of ale, including the famous Oakham Ales Citra. Along with a fine selection of wine. Freedom Four craft lager now available and a guest craft beer on the bar which changes on a monthly basis.

Opening Times:
Monday to Thursday 12-11pm
Friday and Saturday 12-12pm
Sunday 12-10:30pm.

RAMSGATE



THE DAILY GRIND CAFE
11 Harbour Street, Ramsgate
CT11 8HA
01843 588158

We are a family run business sourcing local ingredients and suppliers for our menu.
We have a comfy area to relax in, a seating area to eat and a garden at the rear.

Our menu consists of fresh filled to order sandwiches, baguettes, rolls and wraps, plated salads, cooked breakfasts, hot filled jacket potatoes, homemade cakes and much more. We serve freshly ground coffee and loose leaf teas too.

Open: 09:30 -17:00 Mon to Sat

RAMSGATE



THE OAK HOTEL
66 Harbour Parade, Ramsgate,
CT11 8LN
01843 583686
www.oakhotel.co.uk

The Oak Hotel is ideally located in the coastal seaside resort of Ramsgate, Kent. Situated in the only Royal Harbour in the country, the hotel enjoys spectacular marina and harbour views.

The hotel boasts 34 en-suite bedrooms, a Café Bar, Lounge Bar, Function Room and The Restaurant Sixty - Six and Bar.

Opening Times:
Monday – Saturday 11am – 11pm
Sunday 12noon – 10.30pm

SEVENOAKS



THE ANCHOR & HOPE
South Ash Road, Ash, TN15 7ER
01474 872382
www.anchorandhope-ash.com

The Anchor & Hope is an independent country pub run and owned by Emma Pearson and Benjamin Eldridge. We have an extensive range of beers, wines and spirits and three well kept real ales for those of you who enjoy a good pint. If you are looking to dine with us then we have both a bar menu or a restaurant menu for you to choose from.

Opening Times:
Mon-Fri: 11am - 11pm
Sat: 9am - 11pm Sun: 9am - 10pm

SITTINGBOURNE



THE ROSE & CROWN
Lower Hartlip Road, Sittingbourne,
ME9 7SS
01795 842448
www.theroseandcrownhartlip.com

A traditional country pub with an undisturbed restaurant and a beautiful landscaped beer garden, set in the picturesque village of Hartlip.

The separate lounge and public bars, both with open fires, provide a warm and cosy atmosphere. Visit us Tuesday-Saturday to enjoy quality, home cooked food from the bar and restaurant menus, or on a Sunday for our very popular Sunday roast. Booking is advised.

Open: 12 noon to 11pm - Tues to Sat
12 noon to 7:30pm – Sun

ST MARGARETS



THE COASTGUARD
St Margaret's Bay, Dover, CT15 6DY
01304 851019
www.thecoastguard.co.uk

We like to keep things simple. The Coastguard is an unpretentious place with an eclectic crowd of old and young whose common desire is good food, good drink and good company shared. We also have an amazing view.

Opening Times: Lunch: 12.30 – 14.45
Evening: 18.30 – 20.45 (Times may vary)
Open for refreshments and snacks all day from 10.30 to 23.00

STAPLE



THE BLACK PIG
Barnsole Road, Staple, Canterbury, CT3 1LE
01304 813723
www.theblackpigatstaple.com

The Black Pig is a quintessentially English Country Pub. Located in the tiny Kentish village of Staple, it provides a friendly, oak-beamed, open fired environment where all are welcome. (We are child-friendly and dog-friendly!) You'll find reasonably priced, no nonsense 'pub grub', a great selection of quality real ales and wines and friendly, welcoming staff. There's also a large family garden; as well as a large function room.

Opening Times: 11:00 a.m. - 11:00 p.m.
Tuesday to Saturday. 12:00 - 8:00 p.m. Sunday

WESTBERE



THE YEW TREE
32 Westbere Lane, Westbere CT2 OHH
01227 710501
www.yewtreewestbere.co.uk

We are Anna, Mark, a not so big Alice and a very little Ellen. We aim to make the Yew Tree one of your favourite pubs in Kent. The interior is heavily beamed and boasts a large inglenook fireplace providing a cosy environment in the winter. The large beer garden offers the perfect setting for a summer afternoon, whether enjoying a beer or a bite to eat.

Opening Times: Sun 11:30 - 22:30, Tue - Fri 11:30 - 15:30 & 17:30 - 23:00 Sat 11:00 - 23:00

WHITSTABLE



THE CRESCENT TURNER
Wraik Hill, Whitstable, CT5 3BY
01227 263506
crescentturner.co.uk

The Crescent Turner, Whitstable, is a stylish, 18-bedroom boutique hotel, set high up on Wraik Hill, overlooking the Kent coast. It has panoramic views of the sea and gorgeous surrounding countryside. The Crescent Turner has individually designed bedrooms, a restaurant bar, terrace area, gardens and – very importantly – its own Beach Hut on Whitstable beach, which guests may reserve.

Opening Times: Mon – Sun 6.30pm – 10pm

THE CINNAMON

Best Indian Restaurant in the South East Region
Kent awarded by The BCA 2014









The Cinnamon Square were up against the likes of Turmeric Gold in Tudely and Moghul Dynasty in Maidstone. Co Owner Habib Siddiq said, "We was surprised and felt very honoured to have won the award, to be appreciated in just over two years has given us an immense feeling of satisfaction for the hard work and effort we have put into The Cinnamon Square and has motivated us furthermore to go the extra mile to bring great and unparalleled food and service to our patrons.

We would like to dedicate this to the Management team and the entire staff for their hard work and dedication, without whom this would not have been possible."

Open 7 Days a Week | Lunch 12pm - 2pm | Evening 5.30pm - 11pm

Rings Hill, Hildenborough, Kent TN11 8LX | 01732 832 944

WWW.THECINNAMONSQUARE.COM

£ g b s in as work on windfarm gets under way



FARM: The power generating turbines of the Kentish Flats, just six miles off the coast of Whitstable

By Jamie Weir
jamie.weir@archant.co.uk

CONSTRUCTION work on an additional 15 wind turbines has got under way in a multi-million pound off-shore project which will be the only one of its kind taking place in the UK this year.

The ambitious engineering scheme is part of the Kentish Flats wind farm, which lies some six miles off the coast of Whitstable and is clearly visible from the north Kent coast.

There are already 30 wind turbines on the farm which has been operational since 2005.

In 2014, the turbines produced the equivalent of the total annual electricity needs of 60,000 households in the UK with the power generated fed back through underwater cables to a substation alongside the new Thanet Way.

Swedish energy giant Vattenfall runs the farm and began work on the extension last weekend.

Expected to cost more than £150 million, it will be the only wind farm to be developed offshore in UK waters in 2015.

First stage of construction saw the foundations for the 15 turbines being laid. The new turbines are due to be installed this summer. The first power will be generated sometime later in the year.

Piers Guy, Vattenfall's UK manager, said: "It's important the UK pipeline keeps delivering – and the Kentish Flats extension does that in a modest way – so that British suppliers can maintain a foothold in the sector and help capture the significant economic opportunities that go with it."

Matthew Green, Vattenfall's project director for the extension, added: "It doesn't get much tougher than this: piling foundations 30 metres into the seabed; installing 139.6 metre tall turbines weighing 600 tonnes over eight kilometres off the coast; and, completing on schedule and to budget with, most importantly, maximum emphasis on safety.

"A number of large vessels will be offshore Herne Bay and Whitstable this summer as we add 15 turbines to the existing 30 at Kentish Flats. We hope local people will be able to follow the construction and take a great interest in what is a challenging and complex engineering exercise."

The main access to the site is from the harbour at Whitstable.

When the extension is fully operational, the scheme will be able to generate enough power over the course of a year to meet the electricity needs of around a further 35,000 homes.

It pales into insignificance, however, when compared to the London Array wind farm.

Some 12 miles off the coast of Thanet, it comprises 175 wind turbines and is the largest windfarm in the UK.

It generates enough power for nearly half a million UK homes a year – the equivalent of two thirds of all the homes in the county.

Healthy returns and environmental impact fuel demand for Paddock Wood Solar Bonds

Investors are snapping up Big60Million Solar Bonds for the new Paddock Wood Solar Farm, attracted by the combination of healthy 6% returns and a chance to invest in a clean energy project making a positive local impact.

A month after the company launched its record £20.4 million portfolio of Solar Bonds for Paddock Wood and two other fully operational solar farms, it announced that it has already received applications for 60% of the offer.



Big60Million is determined that people living near its solar farms should have the chance to share in their profits and it has reserved 10% of the Paddock Wood Solar Bonds until May 13th for more than 125,000 households and businesses within 10 miles of the farm. If that's fully taken up more than £170,000 in interest payments will flow into the community over the five-year lifetime of the bond.

The Solar Bonds are priced at £60 to be affordable to people on all incomes and they are secured against the assets of Paddock Wood Solar Farm. The public offer closes at 1pm on 27th May, although the bonds are on track to sell out earlier.

Someone investing £9,960 in 166 Solar Bonds would earn enough interest before tax each year to offset the average £592 home electricity bill and its carbon emissions.



Big60Million is a new type of company benefit energy company, committed to making sure that its solar farms make a positive impact on local communities financially, socially and environmentally. Paddock Wood Solar Farm follows the model established the company's first solar farm at Willersey, Gloucestershire, which has just paid out its first annual dividend.

Investor William Jableman, a retired computing professional living in Willersey said: "I had some money to invest and was impressed by how good the returns were offered on the bonds. I also liked that I could actually visit the site and see directly what my money was being invested in. The fact that it was a renewable energy source was also attractive."

Another Willersey Solar Farm investor, building surveyor Jeff Sayle, said: "It's about investing in the future and investing in something we believe in. I really support the vision of Big60Million to develop renewables across the UK and share profits with the local community. I also like the environmental impact and making a positive difference. I recommend others to invest."

The 9.2MW Paddock Wood Solar Farm will produce enough clean energy to power 2,820 homes each year and will displace 4,100 tonnes of CO2, also every year.

Solar panels only take up 5% of the land so Big60Million will turn the secure 25 hectare site – the size of 35 football pitches - into a haven for bees, birds and wildlife. The solar farm will have strong links with the local community as the company will work



with schools and colleges to help pupils learn about renewable energy and climate change, as well as local wildlife and its habitat.

Toddington Harper, CEO of Big60Million, said: "This is an investment which delivers healthy returns, helps tackle climate change and protects the environment for future generations, and we are delighted by the public interest in our offer. It's important to us that local people share in the ownership and profits of our solar farms, so if this matters to you please sign up while there's still time."

For full details of Big60Million Solar Bond offers and how to apply to invest in your local farm at Paddock Wood visit: www.Big60Million.co.uk Investors can also get information by ringing the Bond Manager, Rockfire Capital Limited, on 0203 174 2508 or emailing bonds@rockfirecapital.com or visiting www.rockfirecapital.com Rockfire Capital Limited is regulated by the UK Financial Conduct Authority (FCA).

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31st Aug 2015	4	4th Sept 2015	HB	Mon-Fri	£425	£685
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REBORN: Jasper Carrott says he is working 'better than ever' and is supremely confident in his ability to make people laugh

Carrott comeback set to rock county on full UK tour

Maria Chiorando talks to the comic about laughter, music and getting older...

AFTER a long break away from the microphone, Jasper Carrott,69, is back on tour – and this time he's bringing his friends.

The Brummie comic, who will be stopping off in Dartford and Folkestone, is accompanied by his best mate and former ELO drummer Bev Bevan on the Stand Up and Rock Tour.

During the show, stand-up is mixed with musical sets.

After starting his career on the British folk club scene, Mr Carrott's comedy single Funky Moped shot to the top five of the pop charts in 1975, establishing him as a household name.

He went on to perform in numerous television shows, including An Audience with Jasper Carrott in 1978, Carrott's Commercial Breakdown in the 1990s, and The Detectives in 1993 – a long-running television series with Robert Powell.

In recognition of his work for charity, Mr Carrott was made an OBE in the New Year's Honours List in 2003.

Despite his experience, he's still learning along the way.

"I'm starting to realise there's a big difference between entertainers and musicians," Mr Carrott tells KoS.

"You find that if you're not getting as good a reaction as usual, the musicians assume it's because no-one can hear you, so they go out to turn the amps up.

"I'm like, 'no, it's because you're crap tonight!'

"Entertainers want to make people enjoy themselves, and musicians want to educate people.

"They want everyone to listen to the B-side of a Del Shannon record, when actually everyone just wants to enjoy Runaway on the A-side."

Mr Carrott, who has relatives in Chatham, has been enjoying the tour tremendously so far.

"I hadn't done stand-up for years," he says.

"I thought I would never do it again, but it's been great. I'm not nervous at all, I'm supremely confident, bordering on arrogant because I've lost the fear of it - I'm too old to worry about it, and a reborn comedian - I'm working better than ever, though I don't know why."

This new-found confidence, along with the format of the show, means his material is funnier than ever.

"I do two half-hours of stand-up, with music from the guys in between, then at the end I join them with my guitar for some folk tunes," he says.

"Generally with stand-up, you're doing a much longer set, and you have to control the levels.

"If you look at the language of comedy - it's quite violent - 'breaking into laughter' for example.

"You can't physically laugh for two hours – it's too painful. But you can for half an hour, so I'm really going for the solar plexus in this show."

The Stand Up and Rock Tour comes to Dartford's Orchard Theatre on May 21.

For more information, visit the website at www.orchardtheatre.co.uk.

You can also call the box office on 01322 220000.

The tour comes to the Leas Cliff Hall in Folkestone on June 11.

For more information and to book tickets, visit www.ents24.com.

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JAN 63, young at heart, petite, 5ft 2ins, brown hair, blue eyes, GSOH, likes cooking, countryside, travel, days out, seeks easy going male, 60-70. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416349**

KATIE, 5ft 5, slim dark hair, very attractive female, likes most things in life and a good laugh, looking for a similar male. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4722127**

NICE female looking for decent genuine male for friendship to start out with. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4710874**

BLONDE female, 5ft 1ins, size 12, likes meals out, drinks, nights in, walks, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409025**

SOPHIA young 40yrs, married but bored, seeks discreet adult fun, any area, all calls answered. **Tel No: 0906 500 1912 Box 413399**

ATTRACTIVE lady early 50's, petite, Scandinavian blonde professional, WLTM professional, caring gent, 50-60's for attention and future together. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416569**

ADVENTUROUS sexy lady, 38yrs, married but seeks no strings fun with discreet man, any age. I'm tall, slim and dominant. Aca. **Tel No: 0906 500 1913 Box 415301**

JAN 63, young at heart, petite, 5ft 2ins, brown hair, blue eyes, GSOH, likes cooking, countryside, travel, days out, seeks easy going male, 60-70. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416349**

ANNE, mid 40's, cheerful busty curvy affectionate real woman! Seeks gent, any age or looks for nights at mine. **Tel No: 0906 500 1914 Box 410291**

ALISON 39, petite with long brown hair, hazel eyes, very loving, seeking similar male for an uncomplicated relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416517**

DISCREET lady, 42yrs wants to make you happy, come to me and let me do that for you. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 1915 Box 409901**

ALISON 30, pretty, slim with long brown hair, fit and active seeks fit older male for energetic relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416497**

TARA, confident lady, long legs, long hair, seeks a saucy man of any age for daytime, no strings fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 4693 Box 414701**

DEBORAH 41, intelligent brunette, lovely brown eyes, discreet, many interests, seeks similar male to share fun and good conversation. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416515**

ATTRACTIVE black, athletic lady, varied interests, seeks similar white, old fashioned, genuine male for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416215**

MAY sexy black African female, 38, hardworking, seeks generous friendly male for mutual rewarding friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416211**

SUE young at heart, good looking, enjoy life, socialising, beach walks, gardening, theatre, seeking male, 55-65 to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416171**

JACKIE 32, attractive professional, very smart and feminine, long brown hair, seeks smart, confident, older male who knows how to treat a lady. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416297**

BECKY 23, classy blonde, long blonde hair, blue eyes seeks loving older guy to spoil and pamper her. Discretion assured/guaranteed. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416233**

LINDA 26, cheeky, curvy brunette, a little shy at first, likes to look after herself, seeks dark haired male for discreet naughty but fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416195**

TERESA 39, petite, cuddly and bubbly seeks kind older male to travel, have fun, and take care of, pamper and flirt with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416081**

LUCY stunning tall brunette, looking for exciting times, seeks like-minded, adventurous male who is willing to try anything once or maybe even twice! **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416079**

PETITE blonde, blue eyes, very feminine and sensual seeks younger male for friendship and discreet fun. Can accommodate. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416077**

SARAH 29yr old pretty slim single mum of one, interesting, lively, good fun, enjoys nights in/out, music, seeking similar easy going, genuine, honest man/dad to get to know. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415841**

ANGIE attractive nurse 39yrs, new to area/advertising, likes dog walking, being sociable, meals in/out, WLTM honest, fun male for possible ltr. looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415827**

LISA attractive petite Filipino female, very lonely, wanting to find love, companionship and to be happy, looking for friendship and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415549**

JANINE 36, faithful, sincere, will never stray seeking similar male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414629**

SUE 65, 5ft 8ins, blonde hair, fashionable, smoker, GSOH, enjoys meals out, travel, animals, WLTM kind, shyish man for friendship, maybe more. Thanet area. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415735**

BLONDE female, 47, looking for fun, sensual, experienced, understanding, seeking similar. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415675**

INTELLIGENT funny guy without a huge ego required for damaged heart. Casey 39, size 10, curves in all the right paces, pretty, kind, loving, genuine, romantic and available. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415509**

BLACK lady 43, sincere, down to earth, fun loving, likes theatre, cinema, meals out, walks, seeking white gent with GSOH, sincere and down to earth. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415477**

JENNY voluptuous blonde tanned well-presented female, enjoys being and giving pampering, cooking, cosy nights, looking for some broadminded excitement. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415399**

PETITE Asian lady, slim, N/S, seeks genuine N/S male for wining/dining, fun and frolics. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414515**

JOYCE 39, attractive GSOH, loves nights out, honest, loyal, fun to be with, looking for mature male for adult companionship, meals out and hopefully more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415561**

NICOLETTE 32 petite professional attractive black female looking for similar hardworking white male who like me loves life and is serious about finding a LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415545**

PAT blonde blue eyed curvy, cuddly female, attractive, likes swimming, gardening, holidays, my job/home, looking for happiness with quiet content grounded male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415533**

MANDY 35, petite attractive slim female with very GSOH, likes to keep fit, meals in/out, WLTM genuine child friendly guy/dad for fun times together. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415513**

JACKIE very pretty leggy well-mannered/educated 28yr old female, loves nights in/out, sports, WLTM sincere male up to 35yrs for friendship, hopefully ltr. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415377**

Men Seeking

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GENUINE fun sexy healthy guy 55, with no ties, looking to date attractive lady 45/57 for fun times and more. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4717147**

GARETH handsome 40's pilot, strong tall build, seeks daytime discreet passion with lady 30-65. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414421**

KIND, tall, medium build, smart, easy going widower, 71 WLM Lady 60s early 70s, for easy going friendship OHAC. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4641218**

MALE, attractive, kind, loyal, gentle, no ties, looking for kind, gentle, small lady for friendship and LTR. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4711124**

DOVER male 54 seeks female for friendship, conversation and maybe more. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4682630**

STU 52, looking for a sincere women to share the long winter nights with. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4609904**

KEEN cyclist 58, non competitive, seeks similar female for sea wall, countryside ride, walking etc for fun, laughs and whatever. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 413337**

FEMALE pillion passenger sought for motor cycle rides / adventures and anything else good/bad. Any age/status, 59yr old male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416827**

PETE 49, slim, 5ft 7in s, smoker, creative, likes art, live bands, outdoors, seeks similar female for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414421**

DONNA 36yrs un-modest but very attractive, nice eyes, good figure, GSOH, OHAC, great job, sick of never meeting Mr Right, looking for someone special. Genuine male please. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415187**

ALISON 27yr old very bored broadminded female with plenty of free time on her hands looking for some adult fun times. Call me, I won't disappoint. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415177**

DEE lonely divorced female, slim, bubbly, attractive redhead, loves cuddles, looking for a man who can restore my faith in love and make me laugh. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414961**

JACKIE extremely sensual lady but for your eyes-only! likes horses, keeping fit, gardening looking for genuine love interest and companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414721**

TERI separated single lady, blonde, blue eyes, slim, WLTM compatible male for genuine friendship, meals out, weekends away, nights out and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414361**

CHIPS on the pier, walks on the beach/countryside, VGSOH, 58yrs old, fit male, seeks female for laughs and love and whatever. NE Kent. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411725**

LOCAL Sevenoaks man, seeks local lady for fun and friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417127**

MALE 46, wishes to meet female of similar age for fun, friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415923**

DAVE genuine guy, 6ft, black hair, blue eyes, medium build, likes sports, gardening, music, seeks female with GSOH and genuine. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388372**

HARRY 50, ex soldier, 6ft, well built, seeking lady to wine and dine. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417015**

BARRY divorced, 6ft, well built, seeking fun time girl for good times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412717**

JAMES 36, well travelled, likes photography, cinema, seeks fun girl for good times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 337663**

JAMES 39, blond hair, blue eyes, seeking female for fun times, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390892**

GRAHAM tall, semi retired, Piscean, likes sailing, seeks female, any nationality. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415463**

JON seeking female for fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416771**

MALE blond hair, blue eyes, seeking female with GSOH, 45-60. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416445**

EASY going male, 48, divorced, kids grown up time to meet someone new. Enjoy most things and will give anything ago. **Text only Mailbox no: 4646694**

TALL male, likes meals out, seeking female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416899**

JACK 47, tall, good-looking, average build, GSOH, seeks broadminded female for discreet no strings fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416867**

ASHFORD male, 66, GSOH, easy going, smoker, down to earth, adventurous, seeks like-minded female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416845**

FEMALE pillion passenger sought for motor cycle rides / adventures and anything else good/bad. Any age/status, 59yr old male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416827**

YOUNG 64yr old male, slim, GSOH, adventurous, outgoing, likes most things, seeks easygoing, laidback, open-minded lady for friendship and good times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399539**

KEEN cyclist 58, non competitive, seeks similar female for sea wall, countryside ride, walking etc for fun, laughs and whatever. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 413337**

CHIPS on the pier, walks on the beach/countryside, VGSOH, 58yrs old, fit male, seeks female for laughs and love and whatever. NE Kent. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411725**

JOHN 40, likes nights out, pubs, clubs, walks, countryside, GSOH, N/S, dad of one, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390119**

FEMININE sensual female, slim-medium build wanted by slim, kind male for daytime meets, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414809**

MALE 46, wishes to meet female of similar age for fun, friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415923**

JACK 47, tall, good looking, average build, GSHOH, seeks slim, broad minded female, any age for discreet no strings fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416567**

KIND affectionate male, seeks likeminded lady. Tonbridge/Sevenoaks. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383518**

NICE guy seeks attractive lady for fun time, maybe more. Sevenoaks. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385370**



MALE 70's, fit, looking for lady to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416663**

WELL built 6ft tall ex soldier would like to be given my orders by a special lady and to have fun times with. **Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4420728**

MALE 70's, fit, looking for lady to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416663**

JACK 47, tall, good looking, average build, GSHOH, seeks slim, broad minded female, any age for discreet no strings fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416567**

MALE blond hair, blue eyes, seeking female with GSOH, 45-60. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416445**

JACK 47, tall, good looking, average build, GSOH, seeks slim, broadminded, submissive female, any age for discreet no strings fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416435**



PETE 49, slim, 5ft 7in s, smoker, creative, likes art, live bands, outdoors, seeks similar female for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416421**

SIMON 49, actor, likes music, films, reading, writing, loop holes, Thailand, Singapore, seeking pretty female, 35 plus for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416345**

ELDERLY Redhill male, seeks slim lady to reignite ones thoughts of female company. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416221**

ACTIVE honest, reliable, loyal, N/S male, 70, varied interests, seeks slim, positive, 60's lady for friendship and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415931**

QUIET easy going gent, likes nights in/out, seeks kind, caring white female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416055**

MATURE businessman, seeking slim, independent young female for mutual pleasure. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416023**

ASIAN male, 68, US educated, seeks black/European female of similar age, discreet, East London. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415997**

BRITISH white professional male, seeking intelligent, independent Asian/black female, 30-42 for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415961**

Gay Seeking

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BI male, slim, passive, seeks older bi M, 75- 90, for gentle fun and friendship. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4398888**

MAIDSTONE bi male, clean shaven, N/S, seeks similar bi male, N/S for meetings. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416737**

PASSIVE male, 60, overweight seeks assertive male for daytime fun, cannot accommodate. **Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4321273**

MATURE closet CD, seeks mature CD for discreet fun, can acomm/travel. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415065**

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War and Peace Revival gives kids a different type of lesson

By Maria Chiorando

maria.chiorando@archant.co.uk

THIS July, the War and Peace Revival will return to Folkestone Racecourse.

Visitors to the show will be able to see living history, military vehicles, vintage civilian entertainment, trade stands, battle re-enactments and military models.

Thousands of military vehicles will gather from around the world, including tanks, artillery, armoured and amphibious vehicles, cars, Jeeps, bicycles and motorbikes, emergency and commercial vehicles – and lots more. Living History scenes will give a unique picture of life in conflict from the Great War to the present,

As part of the festivities, there will be a War and Peace Revival Schools' Day. Last year, this was attended by 2,500 local children.

Designed to help schools from across Kent with an important period of British history, the 2015 programme covers all eras from the First World War to the conflict in Afghanistan and include the Living History field with its vast range of displays from 1914 to present.



EDUCATION: The children experience a different curriculum at the very popular historical event

This is a significant year with the 75th anniversaries of the Dunkirk evacuation and the Battle of Britain, and the 70th anniversary of the end of the Second World War.

This year War and Peace will also be celebrating the 200th anniversary of the Gurkhas' service to the British crown. Rex Cadman, organiser of The War and Peace Revival, said: "We are looking forward to welcoming pupils from Kent schools to our fifth annual Schools' Day. Many schools return year after year underlining just how much importance they place on it as part of their learning curriculum. Last year we unveiled the First World War trench systems, which proved to be very popular with the pupils and will be on display again this year".

The revival takes place from July 22 to 26, with doors open to the public from 9am to 6pm daily.

There is an 'early bird' price for those booking online before April 12. Adults entry costs £15.60, and children (5-16 years) tickets cost £14.

Family tickets (for 2 adults and 2 children) cost £52, and family tickets (for 1 adult and 3 children) cost £49.60. Senior Citizens over 65 years of age pay £14.

For more information, go to www.thewarandpeacerevival.co.uk.

Eddi Reader in Chatham



AWARD-WINNING Scottish folk and pop singer Eddi Reader will perform at Chatham's Britannia Theatre on May 20.

Tickets cost £23.50 visit www.allgigs.co.uk.

Sarah Millican out on tour

AWARD-winning comedian Sarah Millican will be bringing her new Outsider tour to The Orchard Theatre, Dartford, on July 18.

For more information or to book, visit www.orchardtheatre.co.uk .

Alternatively you can call the ticket office on 01322 220000.

Ramsgate electro-pop



LONDON based alt-rock/electro performer East India Youth come to Ramsgate's Music Hall on June 5.

Tickets cost £11.

For more information, visit www.allgigs.co.uk.

Culture set to be big Deal

THE DEAL Festival will run from June 26 until July 12, and will feature a variety of cultural activities, including lots of musical events.

Tickets for the festival go on sale on May 11 at The Astor Theatre in Deal, for more information, call the box office on 01304 370220 or visit www.astor.org

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Reggae show in Dartford



BRITISH reggae band UB40 will be playing at Dartford's Orchard Theatre on May 28.

For more information, visit www.orchardtheatre.co.uk or call the box office on 01322 220000.

Dirty Dancing in Swanley

DIRTY Dancing the musical will be coming to Swanley Park on June 15.

The musical is adapted from the classic 1987 movie, which starred Patrick Swayze and Jennifer Grey.

Tickets start at £12.50. For more information, or to buy tickets, visit www.seetickets.com.

Rocket man in Maidstone



MUSICAL superstar Elton John will be performing at the Kent Event Centre/Showground at Detling, Maidstone, on May 31.

Tickets cost between £47.20 and £89.60. To buy, visit www.allgigs.co.uk.

Lots of laughs in Margate

AWARD-winning comedian Andy Hamilton will take to the stage with a new solo show.

He will be at the Theatre Royal Margate on November 25 at 7.30pm. Tickets are £20 or £18 with concessions. For more information, call the box office on 01843 292795 or visit www.theatreroyalmargate.com.

Prince Charming Adam to headline Create fest

By Maria Chiorando
maria.chiorando@archant.co.uk



EIGHTIES icon Adam Ant (pictured) will headline this year's Create Music Festival in Ashford's Victoria Park on July 26.

Adam Ant, gained popularity as lead singer of post punk group Adam and the Ants, and has scored more than 10 UK top ten hits, including three No 1s. He will top the bill of the Create Main Stage, sponsored by Ashford College, as part of the 20th Anniversary celebrations for Create.

The festival, is one of the south east's biggest free music events, has lined up a programme featuring 40 local bands, acts, solo performers and DJs performing across the day – alongside a line up of headline acts.

Headlining the Revelation St Mary's Stage will be Mark Morriss, front man for The Bluetones, who with thirteen hits to his name and three top 10 albums, will bring his indie melodies to the Revelation crowd. Supergrass's Gaz Coombes will also appear.

The Right Track Music Stage also presents headliners Salvation Jayne for those with a passion for Roots and Blues. Influenced by The Black Keys and Joe Bonamassa, this Kent four piece will close this 'rocky' stage in style.

Festival Organiser Chris Dixon said: "To get such high profile artists to be part of our festival celebration is a real coup, and a measure of how far the festival has come over the years. It has been growing year on year so it never fails to excite me being part of Create, and the town's music history. Twenty years is an amazing achievement for any event, so who knows what we can do for its 21st birthday next year."

Caz Dell, marketing & events co-ordinator for Ashford College, said: "Being a sponsor of the Create Festival Main Stage is a huge opportunity to promote what we do, and get our young people on courses involved. Staff and students alike were excited about Create anyway, so to have Adam Ant headlining has sent a real buzz around the campus."

Visit www.createfestival.co.uk.



WET: Revellers at last year's Create [Pic by Funk Dooby]



QUIRKY: a portrait booth at the festival [Pic by Funk Dooby]



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Translating passion into the dream food career

TV presenter Donal Skehan talks about how his love of food and social media turned into a job...

WHEREVER he is in the world, Donal Skehan never feels too far from home.

While travelling through Vietnam recently, making Food Network series Follow Donal, the 28-year-old Irish cook and presenter felt a strong sense of connection with his family, many of whom are fellow foodies (his parents own a fruit and veg distribution company and he credits his grandmother for his love of cooking).

Then there are his blog followers, of course, for them, Mr Skehan's only ever a few clicks away.

In fact, it was starting a blog, back in 2007, that launched his career. It rapidly took off, with book deals and presenting work soon following.

"I'm always connected in some way, because essentially, my career is based on a hobby I was passionate about," explains Mr Skehan, who also co-presented Junior MasterChef with John Torode in 2012.

"It's a weird sort of crossover between your hobby and your work life. When I eat a nice meal, I will take a picture of it – it's hard to find the line between whether that's work, or something you just love doing."

While the self-confessed "home bird" does miss his three-year-old dog Max and family when he's away (though his parents send him regular photo updates on his pooch), he loves nothing more than exploring new countries.



PASSION: Mr Skehan now travels the world

"My first stop, whenever I land in a new place, is to try and get to a food market," says the cook, who was once in a boy band called Streetwize, one of the acts vying to represent Ireland in the 2008 Eurovision Song Contest.

"I always think it's the best way of soaking up the atmosphere of a new culture. Go to a food market, and you're guaranteed to get a good sense of what it's all about."

Making Follow Donal gave him plenty of opportunity to do just that.

"The series is all about travelling in Vietnam and learning about new cultures and food," he explains. "The aim was to bring people watching along on the trip, and give an authentic insight into a new country and culture."

Exploring for Mr Skehan also means not being "precious or nervous" about trying new foods.

"In one market, they had these big platters of pig's feet and livers and all sorts of things which look off-putting," he recalls. "They slice up the meat very thinly, poach it in a wonderful bone broth then serve it with noodles, a really hot and fiery chilli sauce and lots of herbs. It is possibly one of the best things I had out there. It was gorgeous."

He loves it when he tells his blog followers about a recipe, and they then make their own version.

"It's really rewarding," says Mr Skehan. "You spend time coming up with these recipes, and when I see people sharing a recipe and being proud of it, it makes it all worthwhile."

Canterbury Madness

MADNESS will be playing in Canterbury on September 11.

Tickets are already on sale and can be purchased by visiting www.ticketmaster.co.uk or www.grandslammadness.co.uk.

General admission costs £35 and family tickets, (two adults and two children up to the age of 16), are £99. The Grandslam Madness beer bundle is also available to those who are aged 18 and over and costs £55.

Kids' culinary chaos

AN INTERACTIVE children's show comes to the Theatre Royal in Margate on May 23.

It follows the culinary chaos of Signor Baffo's kitchen as he reveals the best way to mix meatballs with spaghetti.

Tickets are £6 or £20 for a family of four.

To book, call the box office on 01843 292795 or, alternatively, visit www.theatre-royalmargate.com

Panto tickets on sale

EASTENDERS star and comedian Shane Richie will be starring in Dick Whittington at The Orchard Theatre, Dartford in December.

The show will be opening at The Orchard Theatre on December 12 and it will be running until January 3, 2016.

Tickets for the show are available to purchase now. To book you can visit www.orchardtheat.co.uk.

You're getting sleepy...

HYPNOTIST Keith Barry uses a combination of mind control, deception and hypnotism to create a memorable show for the audience.

His Brain Hacker show will be performed on September 27.

He will be performing at the Leas Cliff Hall in Folkestone.

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We are delighted to announce the launch of the Kent Life and Kent on Sunday Food & Drink Awards 2015.

KENT LIFE
Kent on Sunday
kent-life.co.uk kentnews.co.uk
FOOD&DRINK AWARDS 2015



NOMINATIONS are now welcome for the 2015 Kent Life and Kent on Sunday Food & Drink Awards. The awards dinner will take place at Ashford International Hotel on October 15, 2015 from 6.30pm to midnight.

The prestigious awards, which launched in 2013, are designed to champion, highlight and offer a showcase to the great and the good of the region's food and drink industry, including local producers and suppliers, small farming businesses, chefs, restaurants, pubs and hoteliers.

All will be people who care about the countryside and the future of our local environment.

The companies included will all be nominated by you, our wonderful Kent Life and Kent on Sunday readers. We want to know if you've received a fantastic meal at your local pub or have been impressed by the produce and service at your neighbourhood farmers' market or farm shop.

The nomination form is available here and will be repeated. It is also available to complete online at: kentfda.co.uk, where you can read more about the awards and see pictures of last year's winners.

Entries close on July 31 2015. Our handpicked panel of high-profile judges who all live or work in Kent will then select a shortlist, kickstarting the independent judging process where finalists will be visited or interviewed to determine a worthy winner in each category.

All finalists will be invited to the prestigious awards ceremony, where they will enjoy a reception and three-course meal with wine before finding out if they are a winner.

This is our third Kent Life and Kent on Sunday Food & Drink Awards and we are immensely proud to be able to offer you once again the opportunity to reward and recognise the deserving businesses within our local food and drink industry that go above and beyond expectations.

These awards are what you make of them so if you are the owner of a restaurant, a chef or local producer then spread the word among your clients, customers and visitors.

It takes no time at all to make your nomination. You can email, post or nominate online. The judging panel are looking for quality over quantity, focusing on good comments rather than simply the number of nominations received, so everybody is in with a chance no matter how big or small their business.

■ **Don't forget to let us know when you have made your recommendation on our Twitter page @kentlife and @KOSMedia by using #kentfda – similarly, if you are looking for nominations, please use this hashtag.**

HOTELS
INSPIRED BY YOU

Kent Life and *Kent on Sunday* Food & Drink Awards 2015 Nomination Form

Nominate your Kent food and drink favourites by using this form or email us at **kentfda@archant.co.uk**

Please post your entry form to:
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Archant Kent,
Kent House, 81 Station Road,
Ashford TN23 1PJ

Or you can email us at:
kentfda@archant.co.uk

Copies of the form and posters to advertise your entry are available __at **www.kent-life.co.uk** and at **www.kentnews.co.uk**.

The closing date for entries is Friday July 31. 2015

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By entering your details you will be automatically added to the Archant database, Archant will contact you with relevant offers and you can unsubscribe from this at any time. If you would prefer not to be contacted, please state 'no offers' on this form.



■ Our 2014 Kent Food and Drink Hero, Amanda Cottrell. Who will be your choice of Hero for the 2015 top award?

Newcomer of the Year
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Who?
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Where?
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Why?
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Independent food or drink retailer of the Year
Sponsored by Illuminate Skin Clinic

Who?
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Where?
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Why?
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Tea Shop of the Year
Sponsored by Cookery Studio Kent

Who?
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Where?
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Food Producer of the Year
Sponsored by Perrys Chartered Accountants

Who?
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Drinks Producer of the Year
Sponsored by Motorline Maserati

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Farm Shop of the Year

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Farmers' Market of the Year

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Pub of the Year
Sponsored by Eastwell Manor

Who?
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Restaurant of the Year
Sponsored by Britelite

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Chef of the Year
Sponsored by the Canterbury Auction Galleries

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Customer Service of the Year
Sponsored by Fenwick Canterbury

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Kent Food & Drink Hero of the Year

Who?
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Where?
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NEWCOMER OF THE YEAR

Clive Emson

This popular category is open to anyone in the food or drink industry who has started a new venture within the last 18 months. We want to know what impact they have made on the local community and if they have started to achieve any success further afield. Are they helping to promote Kent food and drink to a new audience or have they found a new way to promote an old favourite?

ILLUMINATE SKIN CLINICS

INDEPENDENT FOOD OR DRINK RETAILER OF THE YEAR

This category celebrates that special food or drink shop that we all treasure. The retailer that includes wonderful local produce in their offering and knows where all their stock comes from to make that special link between field and plate. Our winner will have a special must have range and make a contribution to their local community. Going to their shop will be a treat in itself.

COOKERY STUDIO KENT

TEA SHOP OF THE YEAR

Tea shops are an integral part of the Kent food and drink scene and we'd like to know your favourites. Who makes the best tea, serves the nicest cakes and the freshest scones? Is the jam home made and are the sandwiches freshly cut and liberally filled? Do they make tea feel like a special event? Most importantly, are most of the ingredients locally sourced? We're looking forward to hearing all about your favourites.

FOOD PRODUCER OF THE YEAR

Perrys

New this year, this category celebrates our local food producers. We are looking for someone who consistently provides both top-quality local produce and service to their customers. We are keen to hear of any innovations, so if they're doing something new, we'd like you to share it with us. If your local baker, grocer or farmer delights, let us know.

MASERATI

DRINK PRODUCER OF THE YEAR

This category celebrates our local drink producers. Whether it's gorgeous Kentish fizz or delicious juice, we want to find the producers who play such a vital role in the county's food and drink economy. We want to know who you think makes the best drink in Kent, alcoholic or not, and why it is so special. We are keen to hear of any innovations, so if they're doing something new, for example, a fabulous new flavour, we'd like to hear about it.

FARM SHOP OF THE YEAR

A good farm shop needs to have that extra-special something to tempt shoppers away from their local supermarket. Are the staff friendly and knowledgeable? Is the range of produce and the layout of an excellent standard? Does your local farm shop offer a box scheme? Is most of the produce sold there grown or raised on that farm, or nearby and if not would the owner be able to tell you where it is from? Nominate your favourite now!

FARMERS' MARKET OF THE YEAR

The key to a good Farmers' Market is not only the range of produce and the quality of its stalls but also the principles that it supports – for example, does it work as a co-operative with other farmers? Is most of the produce sold there grown or raised locally? Are the stallholders welcoming and knowledgeable? Is the layout easy to navigate as you move around the market? Are any extras offered on a regular basis, such as cookery demonstrations or talks? Is the Market well advertised so you can plan your visit in advance and is there good accessibility and parking? Let us know so we can tell everyone about the best place to go.

PUB OF THE YEAR

Eastwell Manor

A good pub these days has to offer more than a warm welcome and excellent ale. We are looking for an inn that also offers delicious and locally sourced food with seasonal variations. As well as excellent food and drink, it must offer fantastic friendly customer service and real value for money. Good pubs are genuinely the hub of their local community. To misquote a popular TV programme, "pubs are all about ambience, ambience, ambience." If you know a great one, even if it isn't your local, let us all know by voting for them.

RESTAURANT OF THE YEAR

BRITELITE

The Kent Life and Kent on Sunday Restaurant of the Year needs to offer an incomparable dining experience, from the ambience to the service and most importantly the food. Are the ingredients locally sourced, do they support local producers and if so, are they recognised on the menu? Look through their wine list, do they have local as well as international wines and fizz and can the staff tell you more if you ask? We'd expect nothing less from the 2014 Restaurant of the Year.

CHEF OF THE YEAR

The CANTERBURY AUCTION Galleries

Kent is blessed with outstanding chefs working in the county's fantastic array of restaurants. The Chef of the Year should be someone who has devoted himself or herself to the cause of serving the best possible food. They will demonstrate technical ability, use of seasonal ingredients, presentation of the food and an understanding of how flavours work together. They will be able to lead and inspire their team and to talk to customers knowledgeably about the dishes they have enjoyed. Above all, we are looking for passion – that magic ingredient that defines true greatness in the kitchen.

Fenwick CANTERBURY

CUSTOMER SERVICE OF THE YEAR

Another category that's new this year is Customer Service of the Year. Most of our awards recognise customer service in some form. This category celebrates this vital element for its own sake. Do you know an individual, organisation or establishment offering consistently excellent service that goes above and beyond what you expect? We all know great service when we have received it, now is your chance to get it recognised. If you know a person, company, producer, pub, shop or restaurant that is a delight to deal with, tell us.

KENT FOOD & DRINK HERO OF THE YEAR

Kent has a food and drink scene that is among the most vibrant in the UK as you would expect from the Garden of England. This category celebrates the individual who has made a positive impact on the food or drink community – someone who goes the extra mile to promote Kent to a wider audience and is passionate about local produce throughout. Now is your chance to nominate your own Kent Food and Drink Hero.

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1 June	£239pp
6 July	£239pp
13 July	£239pp
17 August	£239pp

Chatsworth Hotel, Worthing

June - August, 2015 • 4 nights half board, £**239**pp • Quote: CH-KOS

Worthing's Chatsworth Hotel is one of the finest hotels on the south coast. Close to the sea and a short stroll from the town centre, the Chatsworth is a 3-star hotel in a Grade II-listed building, steeped in history with a distinctive Georgian frontage. Well known locally for offering impeccable service and a warm welcome, the hotel has a silver tourism award for quality. A well-stocked games room, has two slate-bedded Snooker tables,a pool table, table tennis, darts and a skittle alley. All bedrooms are en-suite and a lift services all floors.

INCLUDED: 4 nights stay at Chatsworth Hotel sharing a twin/double bedded room with en-suite facilities • 4 dinners and 4 breakfasts



4 NIGHTS MON-FRI	
6 July	£139pp
27 July	£139pp
3 August	£139pp
10 August	£139pp
24 August	£139pp

Bosworth Hall Hotel, Leicestershire

July - August, 2015 • 4 nights half board, £**139**pp • Quote: BH-KOS

Enjoy a great value, relaxing summer break at Bosworth Hall Hotel, set in 11 acres of landscaped gardens in the village of Market Bosworth near Leicester. The hotel has a leisure club with an indoor pool, gym, tennis courts, bike hire and more - extra charge applies. There's plenty to see and do within a short drive of Market Bosworth; Twycross Zoo, West Midlands Safari Park and Drayton Manor Park are close by as are Bosworth Water Trust and the National Forest.

INCLUDED: 4 nights stay at Bosworth Hall Hotel sharing a twin/double bedded room with en-suite facilities • 4 dinners and 4 breakfasts



4 NIGHTS MON-FRI		3 NIGHTS FRI-MON	
29 June	£209pp	7 Aug	£169pp
13 July	£209pp	14 Aug	£169pp
5 Oct	£209pp	9 Oct	£169pp

Hotel Piccadilly, Bournemouth

June - Oct, 2015 • 3 or 4 nights half board, from £**169**pp • Quote: PH-KOS

The Hotel Piccadilly is a privately-owned 3-star hotel situated close to the town centre and a short walk from Bournemouth's award winning beaches. The Hotel is comfortable and stylish with long-serving staff providing warm, friendly and welcoming atmosphere. The Lounges are spacious, yet with quiet corners in which to relax. All the bedrooms have en-suite bathrooms and colour TV as well as tea and coffee facilites.

INCLUDED: 3 or 4 nights sharing a standard twin/double-bedded en suite room
• Breakfast and dinner each day



3 NIGHTS FRI-MON	
7 August	£189pp
14 August	£189pp
21 August	£189pp
28 August	£189pp

Ettington Chase Hotel, Stratford-upon-Avon

August, 2015 • 3 nights half board, £**189**pp • Quote: EC-KOS

Ettington Chase is a stylish, luxury hotel near Stratford-upon-Avon. Set in 11 acres of beautifully landscaped grounds in the heart of Shakespeare country, Ettington Chase elegantly combines a beautiful historic building with modern facilities including an elegant restaurant bar with a reputation for quality cuisine. All bedrooms are en-suite with wireless high-speed Internet access and flat-screen HD TVs. The onsite leisure club with pool, sauna and tennis provides excellent facilities for families enjoying a short breaks.

INCLUDED: 3 nights sharing a standard twin/double-bedded en suite room
• Breakfast and dinner each day • Free wifi



4 NIGHTS MON-FRI		3 NIGHTS FRI-MON	
18 May	£109pp	5 June	£89pp
8 June	£119pp	19 June	£89pp
15 June	£119pp		
22 June	£119pp		
6 July	£139pp	23 July	£109pp
13 July	£139pp	17 July	£109pp
20 July	£139pp		
3 Aug	£139pp	7 Aug	£109pp
10 Aug	£139pp	14 Aug	£109pp
31 Aug	£139pp		

Grand Burstin Hotel, Folkestone

May-August, 2015 • 3 or 4 nights half board, from £**89**pp • Quote: GB-KOS

The Grand Burstin Hotel is set in a prime position overlooking Folkestone Harbour. It is renowned as one of the UK's top entertainment hotels, so you can relax, dine in style and be entertained all under one roof. Cabaret shows are performed every evening - fantastic entertainment for all ages! The Spindles Health Club has an indoor heated Swimming pool, sauna and a state of the art gym (£4 per session payable on site).

INCLUDED: 3 or 4 nights sharing a twin/double-bedded en suite room
• Breakfast and dinner each day • Entertainment every night • Free wifi



3 NIGHTS FRI-MON	
7 August	£179pp
14 August	£179pp
21 August	£179pp
28 August	£179pp

4-star Beaumont Estate, Windsor

August, 2015 • 3 nights half board, £**179**pp • Quote: BE-KOS

Set in 40 acres of stunning parkland on the edge of historic Windsor, Beaumont Estate is a majestic hotel. There's a vast range of attractions nearby including Windsor Great Park, Legoland, Thorpe Park, Windsor Castle and Windsor Racecourse. The bedrooms are charming, cosy, and thoughtfully furnished to create a relaxing environment after a long day of exploration. All have en-suite facilities and feature wireless high-speed Internet access and flat-screen HD TVs.

INCLUDED: 3 nights sharing a standard twin/double-bedded en suite room
• Breakfast and dinner each day • Free wifi

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www.kentnews.co.uk May 2015



Power of plants

How your garden could help sell your house. See page 57



Art attack at home

How to pick the best pictures

See page 56 »



Outdoor furniture

Makeover your garden

See pages 58 »



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Filled baskets ready at the end of May.

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Lamb springs into action to help declutter your home

TV star tells Gabrielle Fagan how to give your house the perfect spring clean...



NEAT: Organising your cleaning tools can give you a headstart. Below, Amanda Lamb

BE HONEST, are you really itching to flick the dusters, beat a trail with a broom, and generally blitz your home?

Take heart if the answer's 'no', because only a virtuous third of us perform the traditional spring cleaning ritual, according to research by Mintel.

That presumably means the rest of us are suffering from spring-cleanitis, a little-known allergy to rolling up your sleeves and getting down to the task.

But all that dust and muck that's gathered over winter is cruelly highlighted once the sun comes out.

Thankfully, TV presenter and property expert Amanda Lamb has an infinitely more positive solution.

"Instead of focusing on cleaning the whole house - which can feel daunting - I first regard this time of year as a perfect opportunity to refine what's in rooms, and generally re-evaluate my home," says the 42-year-old mum-of-two.

"I take stock of possessions, sort out those which can be stored away to free up space, and also de-clutter. Once that's done, it instantly transforms a space, and has the added bonus of making me feel less stressed and more relaxed.

"And makes me ready and willing to start working out a spring clean plan," adds Lamb, who hails from Hampshire but now lives in a three-storey Victorian town house in London.

She advises avoiding the rookie-cleaner mistake of trying to tackle all the rooms at once, which is exhausting, inefficient and guarantees spring-clean meltdown.

"Instead, work out which rooms need most attention and do only one at a time, and crucially, when you've finished, reward yourself with a 'room treat'," she says. "It could be simply replacing a door handle or knobs on a chest with pretty new ones, shaking up a wall with a display of prints, or filling a vase with fresh blooms.

"A new fragrance for a room - our sense of smell is our strongest sense - is also incredibly effective.

"Choose fragrances to suit the atmosphere of every room, so the moment you walk in, each smells fresh and appealing - proof of your hard work!"

Follow Lamb's tips for a pain-free spring clean...

KITCHEN CURE: "Clear out a food cupboard and get rid of anything past a sell-by date, thoroughly clean shelves, and put in new lining sheets," says Lamb.

"Divider compartments in drawers stop contents ending up jumbled and hard to find and minimises clutter building-up."

SPRING KIT: Lakeland's the destination for home solutions and plastic Linus Drawer Organisers start from £2.99 each. Its Metallic Shelf Liner, £7.99 a roll.



Cleaning materials stored in a transportable container will help speed up a dust and polish routine, and a blue Housekeeper Box, £24.99, from Dobbies stores, could give guests the idea you have Downton Abbey-style staff! Garden Trading has utility room essentials, ranging from a Rosehead Hook Rail, £32, to a Kitchen Bin and Mini Bin in fashionable charcoal grey, £45 and £22.

Slogans are so on-trend, and the 'It All Comes Out In The Wash' Laundry Basket, £16, Tesco, says it all, and could be calming if you're tearing your hair out over tackling boring jobs.

ROOM TREATS: A Brabantia Orla Kiely Retro Bin, from £95, John Lewis, proves utility items can still be smart. I also love George Home's colourful retro-style collection, especially a 'Freshly Baked' Hanging Sign, £3; Jones Lemonade Bottle Wall Clock, £12; and cheery Rise & Shine Mugs, £5 for set of four, all available from Asda stores and online.

LIVING LIGHTER: "Corners attract clutter and make rooms feel overcrowded and unloved, giving a general impression of mess and disorganisation.

"Clear them and empty surfaces of knick-knacks, books and accessories," says Lamb.



"With a couple of large boxes handy, gather everything into the middle of the room. Items you're keeping can be popped into one box, while those to give or throw away can go in the other.

"If a corner's always used as a dumping ground, equip it with a storage unit so at least it looks tidier.

"Before you put everything back, consider refreshing a display with new items - not all your collections have to be out at the same time - to give a room a lift. 'Less is more' is usually the golden rule, and small groups of treasures look more striking."

SLEEP SMART: "Free space in a wardrobe or chest by having a cull and putting winter clothes in store. To get rid of unwanted clothes - my cut-off point is if they've not left the hanger for two seasons. I have a 'grab and go' day; I lay them out and invite family and friends to take what they like, and then give the rest to charity."

Lamb also recommends vacuum-cleaning mattresses and renewing pillows. "Hold a pillow in the middle in the palm of your hand and if it flops to one side, it's time to throw it out," she says.

Unruly bedlinen storage could be tamed with her other tip - fold matching sets and put them inside their corresponding pillowcase.

Chelsea is all set to bloom

The flower show is the high point of the plant lover's year



STUNNING: Colours are balanced with texture and size

THE BUZZ has, until recently, been about the royal baby, but when Chelsea kicks off all eyes will be on Prince Harry, whose charity Sentebale is returning to Chelsea with a garden.

The Hope in Vulnerability garden by designer Matt Keightley is modelled on a children's camp in Lesotho, adding to the authenticity of the Southern African-styled space.

Coppiced, peeled sweet chestnut will form beautiful hurdle fencing nestled in amongst the planting.

Keightley was the man behind last year's popular Hope on the Horizon garden for Help For Heroes, which won the People's Choice accolade at the show. Ribbons of colour will dance through the beds linking hard and soft landscaping elements.



Matt is also attempting to germinate a native Lesotho Poppy, 'Papaver Aculeatum', to display at Chelsea for the first time.

There's likely to be a lot of interest in Jo Thompson's M&G Retreat Garden, based on a sylvan retreat, with a large natural swimming pond and writers' retreat.

It features a two-storey oak framed building inspired by the writing room of poet Vita Sackville-West at Sissinghurst Castle, a swimming pond edged with water-loving plants, a woodland of river birches, acacias and acers, and a garden with tumbling roses and peonies in a palette of greens, punctuated by soft pinks, lavender blues and creams, with a touch of orange.

Visitors should also get a whiff of beauty firm L'Occitane's scented garden, inspired by the perfume industry in Grasse, France's perfume capital.

Some gardens will be lifted and moved to their final resting place after the show. The Laurent-Perrier garden, which represents a small part of the grand Chatsworth estate in Derbyshire, is being designed by Dan Pearson, who will be overseeing its final relocation to the Trout Stream area of Chatsworth.

Chis Beardshaw's Healthy Cities Garden, sponsored by Morgan Stanley, is a theatrical representation of community which will be relocated after the show to form the centrepiece in a new community project in

From garden clear out or house renovation to on-site new build or developments...

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PREPARATION: Gardens are thoroughly researched and sketched

East London.

History has also inspired several of this year's gardens. The 200th anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo is represented in The Living Legacy Garden, designed by Andrew Wilson and Gavin McWilliam.

The garden's design reconciles the drama and violence of the battle with a progressive and positive future. Elements are inspired by the landscape and terrain of Waterloo which Wellington used to his advantage, the battle formations that successfully repelled attack, the regimental colours of British and Allied troops and the eight aptitudes central to the teaching of Wellington College.

In the artisan gardens section, Chorley Council is staging a garden commemorating the anniversary of the end of World War Two, based on designer John Everiss' father, who was a World War Two evader shot down in France.

The focal point is a sculpture of a young flyer who, seconds after parachuting into France, hides in the ruins of a war damaged church, surrounded by a mass planting of perennials and annuals in shades from cream to purple.

Runnymede Surrey Magna Carta 800th Anniversary Garden in the same section marks the 1215 date with a medieval garden designed by A Touch Of France.

There'll also be a plethora of new plants at Chelsea, including the deep pink Streptocarpus 'Menai' named by the Anglesey branch of the WI for their centenary celebrations this year (Dibleys, www.dibleys.com); and Lavandula angustifolia 'Purity' from Downderry Nursery (www.downderry-nursery.co.uk), a pure white lavender.

For those with high hopes for their own garden designs, there are certain jobs to be getting on with at this time of year.

In a nursery bed, sow seeds of wallflowers and forget-me-nots and of biennial flowers like honesty and Canterbury bells, which can be transplanted to their flowering spot later in the year

Prune out old flower stems of euphorbias to provide more space for new stems, wearing gloves as the sap is a skin irritant

Tie in new growth and flower stems on clematis, directing the stems where you want blooms

Feed roses, sprinkling a generous handful of rose fertilizer around the base of your roses, hoeing into the soil surface if possible.





Home is where the art is...

Gabrielle Fagan explores how to fill your house with colour



EXPRESSION: Art can add a splash of colour and style to your home

IT COULD be argued that we're all artists, snapping away with our mobiles and generally enjoying a more visual world, but all too often our 'work' ends up unseen.

Photographs of family, friends and holidays are commonly left lingering on laptops and phones, despite the risk of accidental deletion or a system crash, instead of being out on display.

Google's vice president, Vint Cerf has even warned internet users to print out photographs or risk losing them in the future as technology advances.



Heeding his advice could not only save the heartache of losing a treasure trove of memories, but also provide a brilliant source of decoration for the home. What could be easier than dressing your walls with personal photos and artwork for an instant injection of personality?

"Even a single piece of art, beautifully framed, in the middle of a blank wall can have an enormous impact, especially if the piece is particularly small or particularly large," says Luci Noel, director of the Affordable Art Fair. "Art creates a real focal point for a room, and symmetry of furniture or furnishings around the piece can also help to draw the eye to it. Conversely, a cluster - known as a 'salon hang' - can vary from a few pieces up to an entire wall filled with a collection. Be as creative as you want to be, even hanging objects or mirrors within the cluster to fill a space," Noel says.

If you're bewildered by the vast array of art on offer, or struggle to identify which photos to include in your home 'gallery', she advises hanging with heart.

"It's all about browsing at art fairs, visiting galleries to discover what resonates with you. Maybe print off a selection of your photo prints, so over time you can narrow down your choice," she says."Art should be an emotional experience - buy only what you love and what you want to live with and will enjoy every day. It's all about personalising your space and making it unique to you."

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APPEALING: Well-maintained plants give a good impression

The secret to selling your house

Gardens can have a huge impact on house price. By Hannah Stephenson

SO YOU want to sell your house? There are two things you should know: summer is the best time to do it, and the deciding factor may be your garden.

Some 66 per cent of prospective buyers in Britain say the garden is vital to their decision on whether or not to buy a house, according to an online survey of 2,000, people while estate agents advise that a garden can increase a property's price tag by up to 20 per cent.

So it's time to hide the dustbins, ditch the rubbish, dig out the weeds and make some colourful additions to your front garden to make it a welcoming haven.

If you park your car in the front garden, don't try to enhance the area with fiddly little plants which may flop over the parking space and end up being squashed. Instead, group a few plants strategically - taking account of the movement of cars - to create a bold and practical effect.

Standard potted trees are often a way to make a front entrance look grander, so if you're after a really quick fix, look in your local garden centre for standard bay or olive trees in pots, to frame your front door. Alternatively, go for box topiary.



Hide eyesores with quick-growing evergreen climbers such as the cultivars of the honeysuckle Lonicera japonica, and plant other climbers such as clematis or roses to adorn bare walls.Obviously, if you're in a rush to sell, you're not going to have time to plant a hedge to block out pollution and road noise, but you can make smaller effective improvements with some quick planting.

Consider putting up a framework of trellis to screen your dustbins and plant fast-growing climbers around it, even if it's just some variegated ivy. With the front garden creating a great first impression, your home may soon have the 'Sold' sign outside it.



Why not branch out a little?

Gabrielle Fagan explores why more people are creating an al fresco space to enjoy the milder months



SOPHISTICATED: Outdoor furniture makes the most of your garden

IN A TRIUMPH of hope over experience, we plucky Brits persist in defying our unpredictable weather, eating, socialising and relaxing al fresco as soon as there's a glimmer of sunlight.

But while we can't guarantee good weather, it is at least possible to make a stylish and comfortable setting a dead cert, by lavishing some love on your outdoor space. As well as the advantage of creating another 'room' - always welcome in our space-starved times, investing in a patio could also literally help you 'grow' money.



A garden can increase the value of a property by up to 20 per cent, according to research by RatedPeople.com, the UK's largest online trade recommendation service which also found that the majority of buyers (66 per cent) say outdoor space would be a key deciding factor when it comes to buying.

"People can always tell the difference between a house and a home, and it works the same way with a garden," says Rated People ambassador and Location, Location, Location presenter Phil Spencer.

"Don't be afraid to add personality to your outdoor decor and accessories - this is your space and says as much about you as your interior. Wall decorations, interesting plant pots and special features will make your garden eye-catching and, just as important, more enjoyable for you to spend time in."

A simple test can tell you if that space is fit for purpose: plant yourself down on your outdoor furniture and decide whether you're as comfortable as you would be indoors, and could linger there as long over a meal or drinks. If the answer's a resounding 'no', it's time for revamp.

Nicola Gidlow, buyer for outdoor living at John Lewis adds: "The blurring of the boundaries between indoor and outdoor spaces means that entertaining is no longer confined to one area of the home, and now commonly involves using kitchen, dining and outdoor spaces."

Mr Spencer says: ""Consider the amount of time and care you want to give to your garden when you are creating it. Weather-proof furniture, which can be left outside, is ideal if you don't want to get involved in yearly maintenance and haven't any winter storage."

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Please include your name and address, although these will be withheld in exceptional circumstances, and a daytime phone number for verification (this will not be published). We reserve the right to edit all letters.

Let's get housing to local level

MOST anti-social behaviour takes place in social housing. Why? Because housing associations are doing nothing to control their own tenants. They are weak.

If they wanted to, they could present a united front, form some kind of congress.

But they won't and they can't. They have no contact with one another.

Communication is impossible because there are no less than 38 housing associations in the Medway towns – 37 of them with their head office outside the Medway towns.

They are controlled from places such as Coventry, Birmingham and Bradford.

These faceless people control some of our most troubled communities. Why should someone in Bradford have the biggest say in how we live here in Rochester and Gillingham?

Why not bring power back to Medway? Why not form a new housing association, which buys out all the existing properties and start to control our own communities?

After all, if their properties are situated in Medway, they then become our assets, to be controlled by us, not by someone in a far flung part of Britain.

B Strickland,
Rochester

Gay debate keeps on going

WITH reference to the letter from Ray Duff, I apologise for not having picked up his earlier letter.

I did not get that week's paper and was relying on the website when I was in the library. Unfortunately the website access has been a little erratic of late, hence I missed his letter.

Secondly, the personal experiences I mentioned were not just during puberty but lasted for a few more years afterwards.

Thirdly, I did not experience any of what Mr Duff called "gay cure nonsense" and I had no contact at that stage with any so-called gay cure organisation.

My orientation changed purely through ongoing personal Bible reading and prayer. Incidentally, I will admit that some gay cure organisations do go a little over the top with their theology, but the True Freedom Trust does not fall into that category.

What is more, it is only recently that I have been in contact with True Freedom Trust and that is about the sum total of the contact I have had with what Mr Duff called "other gay people".

Finally, and more importantly, although Jesus Christ is not recorded as having spoken about homosexuality, he did nevertheless endorse the moral law as taught in the Old Testament.

I hope that this brief note clarifies matters.

John Humphrey,
Sevenoaks

LETTER OF THE WEEK



Poem for the little Princess Charlotte

I HOPE that readers enjoy my new poem Charlotte's Symphony following the birth of the new princess:

Charlotte's Symphony

Princess of joy and jubilation
From all across our happy nation,
A sister for our future heir,
Received with love from everywhere;
Princess of jubilation!

Princess of countless twinkling eyes
That shine like stars across the skies,
And we, like children, played the game
Of guessing what would be your name;
Princess of twinkling eyes

Princess of gentle cradle-song
As all the people sing along,
A baby cradled close and dear
In hearts and minds from far and near;
Princess of cradle-song!

Princess of bells that ring aloud
From church and spirit, as the crowd,
Remains from every place, delighted
In you, our pride of hearts united;
Princess of hearts united!

Robert Duncan Martin
Canterbury

Immigration is our big threat

IN YOUR editorial (KoS, 'Vote For All That Is Good About Our Proud County', last week) you warn against us voting for "any party that would rip the fabric of our society, that would stop us from being the inclusive, welcoming county, and indeed nation, that we are".

Can you really not see that the arrival of hundreds of thousands of foreign immigrants each year is more likely to damage that national character than anything else?

Polls show that a significant majority of the population want to see a brake put on the level of immigration we have experienced in the past 20 years.

With Labour, Lib Dems and the Greens wanting uncontrolled immigration and the Tories promising 'jam tomorrow' what should these people do with their vote? Another five years of any combination of the mainstream parties is likely to see that number rise year by year as the Middle East, North Africa and Africa in general, continue to fall to pieces.

If you favour letting more people in, to help them, on understandable humanitarian grounds, when do you say 'stop'?

After five million, or 10, or 50? And what happens then tothe inclusive, welcoming country?

I never cease to be amazed by how undemocratic 'liberals' are when the great majority don't agree with them

John Evans,
Ashford

Live exports must now stop

APPARENTLY, the biggest live export campaign in Australian history is taking place right now, using powerful visual images of a "weeping bull".

The particular animal used for the campaign came from an Australian farm but died in Mauritius, terrified and alone.

He had suffered unimaginable cruelty and pain at the hands of this outrageous vile trade.

Cruelty continues because it remains hidden from the public, hence the campaign is showing images of this bull on public transport hoardings and so on.

The tag line used is 'Live export, it's a crime against animals. Some trips should never be taken'.

Wherever live export takes place, in any country, it is a vile dirty cruel trade that we can well do without.

Pam Lightfoot,
by email

Lusitania wrong way round

I AM sure others will already have told you (KoS, Lusitania article, last week) but your article states the ship "had set off from Liverpool to New York... when it was sunk after being torpedoed".

You correctly state the Germans struck as the ship was carrying munitions to Europe.

Which means the ship was actually struck going the other way, New York to Liverpool.

Black mark to you.

Jeremy Page,
by email

KOS 10 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

AS part of our commitment to providing the best service to you, we have produced our 10 guiding principles

The way KoS will create our unique and compelling content is to follow these 10 principles:

Kent on Sunday will:

1) Be available in every postcode in Kent.
2) Be fair, accurate and balanced.
3) Be written in clear, concise English.
4) Not be overly sensational.
5) Have a sense of humour.
6) Have an easily understood division between news, comment and advertising.
7) Seek to celebrate as well as constructively criticise.
8) Highlight topical issues of concern to people living in the county.
9) Spotlight individual cases which raise broader concerns.
10) Champion causes that it feels are important to the well-being of the county and its people.

We hope you enjoy Kent on Sunday.

images of kent



Walmer Castle

by **Julie Stanley, from Dover**

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13 13	**Vauxhall Astra 1.6 i VVT 16v Exclusiv** 36,382 miles	**£9,405**
13 13	**Vauxhall Astra 1.6 i VVT 16v Exclusiv** 35,150 miles	**£9,436**
13 63	**Vauxhall Astra 1.6 i VVT 16v Energy** 9,713 miles	**£10,411**
11 61	**Vauxhall Astra 1.6 i VVT 16v SRI** 21,173 miles	**£8,751**
14 64	**Vauxhall Astra 1.6 i VVT 16v Sri** 11,106 miles	**£11,344**
14 64	**Vauxhall Astra 1.6 i VVT 16v Sri** 10,627 miles	**£11,363**
12 12	**Vauxhall Astra 1.6 VVT 16v Sri** 4,610 miles	**£10,675**
11 11	**Vauxhall Astra 1.7 CDTi ecoFLEX** 47,310 miles	**£8,056**
13 13	**Vauxhall Astra 2.0 CDTi 16v SE** 16,382 miles	**£11,339**
11 61	**Vauxhall Astra 2.0 CDTi 16v Sri** 23,909 miles	**£9,496**
13 13	**Vauxhall Astra 2.0 CDTi 16v Sri** 7,805 miles	**£11,046**
12 12	**Vauxhall Astra GTC 1.4 i Turbo** 17,348 miles	**£9,839**
12 62	**Vauxhall Astra GTC 1.4 i Turbo** 26,120 miles	**£10,437**
13 13	**Vauxhall Astra GTC 1.4 i Turbo** 12,279 miles	**£11,089**
14 64	**Vauxhall Astra GTC 1.4 i Turbo** 1,001 miles	**£13,952**
13 63	**Vauxhall Astra GTC 2.0 CDTi 16** 15,476 miles	**£12,821**
14 14	**Vauxhall Astra GTC 2.0 CDTi 16** 9,201 miles	**£14,268**
12 12	**Vauxhall Corsa 1.2 i 16v Limit** 20,983 miles	**£8,114**
13 13	**Vauxhall Corsa 1.2 i Energy 3DR** 8,596 miles	**£7,578**
11 11	**Vauxhall Corsa 1.4 i 16v SE 5DR** 14,508 miles	**£7,120**
11 61	**Vauxhall Corsa 1.4 i 16v SE 5DR** 36,090 miles	**£7,396**
12 12	**Vauxhall Corsa 1.4 i 16v SE 5DR** 8,990 miles	**£7,868**
14 14	**Vauxhall Corsa 1.4 i 16v SE 5DR** 15,304 miles	**£8,906**
14 14	**Vauxhall Corsa 1.4 i 16v SE 5DR** 12,356 miles	**£8,990**
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14 14	**Vauxhall Corsa 1.4 i 16v SXi 3** 8,258 miles	**£8,928**
13 13	**Vauxhall Corsa 1.4 i 16v SXi 5** 11,947 miles	**£7,647**
14 14	**Vauxhall GTC 1.4 Turbo 16v SRI** 16,460 miles	**£13,060**
14 14	**Vauxhall GTC 1.4 Turbo 16v SRI** 15,418 miles	**£13,118**
14 64	**Vauxhall GTC 1.4 Turbo 16v SRI** 6,540 miles	**£14,182**
14 64	**Vauxhall GTC 2.0 CDTi 16v SRI** 13,975 miles	**£15,132**
13 63	**Vauxhall Insignia 1.8 i VVT SR** 19,519 miles	**£11,219**
12 62	**Vauxhall Insignia 2.0 CDTi 16v** 40,563 miles	**£10,857**
14 14	**Vauxhall Insignia 2.0 CDTi eco** 15,161 miles	**£14,118**
12 62	**Vauxhall Meriva 1.3 CDTi 16v T** 20,451 miles	**£10,309**
12 12	**Vauxhall Meriva 1.4 i 16v Excl** 10,547 miles	**£7,490**
12 12	**Vauxhall Meriva 1.7 CDTi 16v E** 8,391 miles	**£7,889**
11 61	**Vauxhall Meriva 1.7 CDTi 16v E** 6,453 miles	**£7,911**
14 64	**Vauxhall Mokka 1.4 T Turbo 16v** 16,216 miles	**£16,071**
14 14	**Vauxhall Mokka 1.4 T Turbo 16v** 6,473 miles	**£16,503**
14 14	**Vauxhall Mokka 1.7 CDTi ecoFLE** 15,441 miles	**£15,672**
14 14	**Vauxhall Mokka 1.7 CDTi ecoFLE** 14,951 miles	**£15,698**
14 14	**Vauxhall Mokka 1.7 CDTi ecoFLE** 14,654 miles	**£15,707**
14 14	**Vauxhall Mokka 1.7 CDTi ecoFLE** 12,357 miles	**£15,815**
12 12	**Vauxhall Zafira 1.6 i VVT 16v** 14,213 miles	**£9,304**
12 12	**Vauxhall Zafira 1.6 i VVT 16v** 12,786 miles	**£9,338**
12 12	**Vauxhall Zafira 1.6 i VVT 16v** 6,194 miles	**£9,471**
12 12	**Vauxhall Zafira 1.7 TD ecoFLEX** 19,556 miles	**£9,250**
11 61	**Vauxhall Zafira 1.8 i VVT 16v** 16,921 miles	**£9,177**
13 63	**Vauxhall Zafira 1.8 i VVT 16v** 9,823 miles	**£10,598**
13 63	**Vauxhall Zafira 1.8 i VVT 16v** 10,953 miles	**£11,004**
14 14	**Vauxhall Zafira 1.8 i VVT 16v** 11,891 miles	**£12,318**

Audi

12 12	**AUDI A1 1.6 TDI, Sport Sportback,** 25,437 miles	**£12,500**
12 62	**AUDI A3 1.6 TDI SE 3DR,** 22,179 miles	**£14,000**
12 12	**AUDI A5 2.0 TFSI S Line 3DR,** 34,733 miles	**£19,000**

BMW

13 63	**BMW 1 Series 1.6 114d Urban Sp,** 7,592 miles	**£15,500**
13 63	**BMW 1 Series 1.6 114i Sport Sp,** 9,995miles	**£15,840**
14 14	**BMW 1 Series 2.0 116d Sport Sp,** 2,447 miles	**£16,000**
12 12	**BMW 1 Series 2.0 120d M Sport,** 24,333 miles	**£15,000**
12 62	**BMW 3 Series 2.0 318d SE 4DRr** 14,243 miles	**£17,000**
12 12	**BMW 3 Series 2.0 318i SE 2DR** 12,011	**£15,500**
11 11	**BMW 3 Series 2.0 320d SE 2DR** 20,153 miles	**£18,200**
13 13	**BMW 3 Series 3.0 330d BluePerf,** 32,459 miles	**£25,000**

Chevrolet

11 11	**Chevrolet Spark 1.0 LS 5DR,** 36,471	**£4,000**
13 13	**Chevrolet Spark 1.2 LTZ 5DR,** 31,622 miles	**£5,346**
13 13	**Chevrolet Spark 1.2 LTZ 5DR,** 28677 miles	**£5,417**
13 13	**Chevrolet Spark 1.2 LTZ 5DR** 28,591 miles	**£5,422**

Citroen

11 61	**Citroen Berlingo Multispace 1.** 15326 miles	**£8,206**
11 61	**Citroen Berlingo Multispace 1,** 21794 miles	**£8,776**
12 62	**Citroen C3 Picasso 1.6 VTi Exc.** 9303 miles	**£9,129**
12 12	**Citroen C4 1.6 e-HDi Airdream,** 25300 miles	**£8,381**
13 13	**Citroen DS5 2.0 HDi DStyle 5DR,** 35539 miles	**£12,883**
13 13	**Citroen DS5 2.0 HDi Dstyle 5DR,** 30407 miles	**£13,197**
11 61	**Citroen Grand C4 Picasso 1.6 H,** 24964 miles	**£11,379**

Dacia

14 14	**Dacia Duster 1.5 dCi Laureate 16,** 769 miles	**£10,604**

Ford

3 63	**Ford Focus 1.6 Ti-VCT Zetec 5DR** 13,384 miles	**£8,966**
14 14	**Ford Focus 1.6 Ti-VCT Zetec 5DR,** 10,576 miles	**£9,211**
12 62	**Ford Focus 1.6 Ti-VCT Zetec 5DR** 11, 387 miles	**£9,214**
12 12	**Ford Focus 1.6 Ti-VCT Zetec 5DR** 7, 537 miles	**£9,596**
12 12	**Ford Focus 1.6 Ti-VCT Zetec 5DR** 7021 miles	**£9,624**
12 12	**Ford Focus 1.6 Ti-VCT Zetec 5DR** 6143 miles	**£9,637**
11 11	**Ford Focus 1.6 Zetec 5DR 18,** 438 miles	**£9,670**
11 11	**Ford Focus 1.6 Zetec 5DR** 18438	**£7,617**
13 63	**FORD FOCUS TITANIUM,**1,159 miles	**£13,003**
13 13	**Ford Galaxy 2.0 TDCi Titanium,** 46,810 miles	**£14,412**
13 13	**Ford Galaxy 2.0 TDCi Titanium,** 46,120 miles	**£14,460**
14 14	**Ford Kuga 2.0 TDCi Titanium X** 21,689 miles	**£21,275**

Hyundai

12 62	**Hyundai i10 1.2 Style 5DR,** 36,678 miles	**£5,593**
14 14	**Hyundai i20 1.2 Style 5DR** 3,510 miles	**£8,965**
14 64	**Hyundai i30 1.6 CRDi Active 5d** 6,566 miles	**£13,978**
12 62	**Hyundai ix35 1.6 GDi 16v Style** 8,446 miles	**£12,416**
13 13	**Hyundai ix35 1.7 CRDi 16v Prem** 26,977 miles	**£14,387**

Infiniti

12 62	**Infiniti M 3.5 V6 GT Premium 4DR** 17,364 miles	**£21,000**
13 63	**Infiniti Q50 2.2 TD Premium 4DR** 10, 637 miles	**£21,500**
14 64	**Infiniti Q50 2.2 TD Sport 4DR** 4,300 miles	**£26,700**
14 14	**Infiniti Q50 3.5 S Hybrid AWD** 8,785 miles	**£32,000**
15 15	**Infiniti Q50 3.5 S Hybrid AWD** 1,001 miles	**£36,000**
14 64	**Infiniti Q70 3.5 GT 4DR Hybrid** 1,001 miles	**£27,500**
14 14	**Infiniti QX70 3.0 TD S AWD 5DR** 10,016 miles	**£31,000**

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12 12	**Kia Soul 1.6 GDi 1 5dr** 15,406 miles	**£7,880**
11 61	**Kia Sportage 1.7 CRDi 3 2WD 5DR** 71,479 miles	**£13,085**
12 12	**Kia Sportage 1.7 CRDi 3 2WD 5DR** 12,598 miles	**£16,484**
12 62	**Kia Sportage 1.7 CRDi 3 2WD5DR** 14,567 miles	**£17,069**

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14 14	**Mercedes-Benz B Class 1.5 B180** 1,001 miles	**£19,000**
12 12	**Mercedes-Benz B Class 1.8 B180** 19,704 miles	**£14,553**
12 12	**Mercedes-Benz B Class 1.8 B180** 17,295 miles	**£17,000**
10 60	**Mercedes-Benz C Class 1.8 C180** 38,171 miles	**£12,000**
11 61	**Mercedes-Benz C Class 2.1 C220** 51,648 miles	**£17,000**
12 62	**Mercedes-Benz SLK 2.1 SLK250 C** 13,547 miles	**£19,000**

MG

14 14	**MG MG3 1.5 VTi-Tech 3Form Spor** 2,563 miles	**£7,471**
14 64	**MG MG3 1.5 VTi-Tech 3Form Spor** 1,001 miles	**£7,800**
14 64	**MG MG3 1.5 VTi-Tech 3Form Spor** 1,001 miles	**£7,800**
14 64	**MG MG3 1.5 VTi-Tech 3Form Spor** 1,754 miles	**£7,800**
14 64	**MG MG3 1.5 VTi-Tech 3Time 5DR** 1,001 miles	**£7,500**

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14 64	**MINI Hatch Cooper 1.5 (s/s) Co** 1,000 miles	**£17,138**
11 61	**MINI HATCH COOPER** 3,044 miles	**£10,231**

Nissan

12 62	**Nissan Juke 1.5 dCi Tekna 5DR** 49,427 miles	**£10,461**
12 62	**Nissan Juke 1.5 dCi Tekna 5DR** 14,271 miles	**£11,939**
12 12	**Nissan Juke 1.6 16v Acenta 5DR** 5,927 miles	**£9,961**
12 62	**Nissan Juke 1.6 16v Acenta 5DR** 6,448 miles	**£10,094**
13 13	**Nissan Juke 1.6 16v Acenta 5DR** 15,744 miles	**£10,400**
12 12	**Nissan Juke 1.6 16v Acenta Pre** 26,069 miles	**£10,117**
13 13	**Nissan Juke 1.6 16v Visia 5DR** 18,396 miles	**£9,649**
11 61	**Nissan Note 1.5 dCi Tekna 5DR** 16,398 miles	**£7,519**
13 13	**Nissan Note 1.6 16v N-Tec+ 5DRr** 5,900 miles	**£8,600**
13 13	**Nissan Note 1.6 16v N-Tec+ 5DR** 3,731 miles	**£8,686**
12 12	**Nissan Qashqai 1.5 dCi N-Tec 5** 33,185 miles	**£12,576**
12 12	**Nissan Qashqai 1.5 dCi N-Tec 5** 20,456 miles	**£13,111**
13 13	**Nissan Qashqai 1.6 Acenta 5DR** 12,957 miles	**£11,876**
11 61	**Nissan Qashqai+2 1.6 Acenta 5DR** 22,307 miles	**£11,246**
11 61	**Nissan Qashqai+2 2.0 dCi Tekna** 50,296 miles	**£15,424**
13 63	**Nissan X-Trail 2.0 dCi N-Tec+** 19,381 miles	**£19,800**

Peugeot

13 13	**Peugeot 107 1.0 12v Active 5DR** 26,071 miles	**£5,616**
13 13	**Peugeot 107 1.0 12v Active 5DR** 23,177 miles	**£5,676**
13 13	**Peugeot 107 1.0 12v Active 5DR** 21,117 miles	**£5,713**
11 61	**Peugeot 207 1.6 HDi FAP Allure** 13,490 miles	**£7,560**
12 12	**Peugeot 3008 1.6 e-HDi FAP Spo** 43,621 miles	**£8,952**
11 61	**Peugeot 3008 1.6 e-HDi FAP Spo** 22,362 miles	**£9,194**

Renault

14 14	**Renault Captur 1.5 dCi ENERGY** 15,520 miles	**£12,148**
13 63	**Renault Clio 1.2 16v Dynamique** 18,523 miles	**£8,843**
11 61	**Renault Clio 1.2 16v I-Music 3** 22,474 miles	**£5,253**
11 61	**Renault Megane 1.5 dCi ECO FAP** 28,113 miles	**£7,303**

Seat

12 12	**Seat Exeo 2.0 TDI DPF SE 4DR** 16,881 miles	**£10,537**
12 12	**Seat Leon 1.2 TSI SE Copa 5DR** 29,195 miles	**£8,988**
13 63	**Seat Leon 1.6 TDI SE5DR (star** 22,198 miles	**£10,825**

Skoda

12 62	**Skoda Octavia 1.4 TSI Elegance** 18,955 miles	**£12,269**

Smart

14 14	**Smart fortwo 1.0 MHD Passion S** 7,621 miles	**£8,361**

Subaru

14 64	**Subaru Forester 2.0 D X 5DR** 1,001 miles	**£21,500**
08 08	**Subaru Legacy 2.0 D R5DR** 66,650 miles	**£7,111**
13 63	**SUBARU LEGACY SE (Lineartronic** 1,063 miles	**£19,800**
14 64	**Subaru Outback 2.0 D SX Linear** 7,439 miles	**£25,000**
14 64	**Subaru XV 2.0 D SE Premium5DR** 1,300 miles	**£21,483**
15 15	**Subaru XV 2.0 i Lineartronic 5** 1,001 miles	**£21,750**

Suzuki

14 14	**Suzuki Swift 1.6 Sport 3DR (Na** 11,402 miles	**£11,088**

Toyota

12 12	**Toyota Verso 1.6 V-Matic T2 5DR** 22,954 miles	**£10,263**
12 12	**Toyota Yaris 1.33 VVT-i TR 3DR** 19,052 miles	**£7,000**
12 12	**Toyota Yaris 1.33 VVT-i TR 5DR** 54,399 miles	**£6,780**

Volkswagen

11 61	**Volkswagen Golf 1.6 TDI Match** 33,466 miles	**£10,746**

Volvo

15 15	**Volvo V40 1.6 TD D2 R-Design 5** 10,734 miles	**£16,500**

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By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk



ROARING INTO THE FIGHT: Jaguar's stunning new XE is set to take on the all-conquering BMW 3 Series

Baby Jag roars into battle

All new XE will take the fight to BMW's all-conquering 3 Series, with its looks, driving enjoyment and low costs

A NEW Battle of Britain is starting. But it's not the Spitfire versus the Messerschmitt 109; this time the protagonists are the new Jaguar XE (from £26,995) and BMW 3 Series.

The BMW has long been Britain's executive car of choice, latterly also becoming the nation's best-selling family car overall, helped by keen business leasing rates.

However, the all-new technologically advanced baby Jag flies in this month, heralding a rare old dogfight.

The British challenger can't yet match the production volumes of the German champion, but the Jag should deliver the British marque's traditional combination of a smooth ride with great driving characteristics – a partnership often beyond rivals.

And the Jaguar lives up to the brand's marketing strapline of its 50s/60s heyday, "Grace, Space and Pace": the XE turns heads, it's competitive on cabin size for its sector – the bigger XF beckons for those who need more – and has the chassis and powertrains befitting a car touted as a sporting saloon.

The interior also blends the marque's 'Trad Jag' and contemporary style and quality.

Above all though, the XE tugs on patriotic heart strings, but Jaguar is still a comparatively minor producer compared with the German premium giants – BMW, Audi and Mercedes-Benz – and there is only so much that patriotism and past glories can give in the business sector battle.



Fortunately, the most efficient XE has a 161bhp 2.0-litre diesel offering a 75mpg (combined cycle) and road tax exempt CO2 emissions of 99g/km – a class-leading package.

The XE also outguns its rivals on residual/used values, company car user chooser Benefit In Kind tax rates and road tax, plus keenly-priced Jaguar Service Plans from just £475 for five years/50,000 miles, with a £659 75,000-mile option for high mileage users. These plans are fully transferable to secondhand buyers – with queues already forming.

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Peugeot's star 208 gets extra texture

PREVIEW: Facelift for Peugeot's classy supermini introduces a stealth fighter look with what is claimed to be world's first textured paint, writes **Steve Loader...**

Peugeot 208

Price:	**from £10,195 (expected)**
Driving appeal:	★★★★
Image:	★★★★★
Space:	★★★★★
Value:	★★★★★
Running costs:	★★★★★
How green?:	★★★★★
Best rival:	**Ford Fiesta**

PEUGEOT'S 208 supermini has succeeded in recreating the allure of the 205 – the French marque's legendary 1980s supermini.

Already produced in five different countries and tapping into the huge Chinese market, the 208 will surely exceed the 205's 5.3 million production tally.

More importantly for Peugeot though, the 208 has erased memories of its lacklustre 207 predecessor.

And yet time waits for no car, so the 208 – launched three years ago – has had a facelift.

Not so you'd notice though, because the car's impressive and slippery aerodynamic styling is largely unchanged apart from a larger grille and new soft-touch dashboard.

Headlines are polarized instead on a new paint treatment and several new even more eco powertrains.

The former is what Peugeot claims is a world-first textured finish available from launch next month, initially in 'Ice Grey' and 'Ice Silver' and priced at £645 extra - exactly the same as pearlescent paint.

Peugeot says it is "subtly granular to the touch" and more hard-wearing and easier to care for than the conventional matt or stealth fighter effect paint currently in vogue.







And if what are effectively two shades of grey are not grabbing you at present, these can be livened by 'Lime Yellow' or 'Menthol White' personalisation packs, wider customisation options being a key theme of the facelift 208, which is also available in Peugeot's new GT Line trim, offering the GTi version's distinctive style without the performance and higher price.

Four new engines are now available on the car featuring Peugeot's PureTech petrol and BlueHDi diesel Euro 6 emissions-compliant technology.

The new 1.6-litre BlueHDi 100 S&S diesel has already set a new long-distance fuel consumption record, logging 141.2mpg over 2,152 kms, despite several driver changes and the risk of different driving styles subtly changing the result.

Though we can forget any such figures in real world motoring, Peugeot is still marketing this version with an official combined cycle figure of 94.2mpg and, with CO2 emissions of 79g/km – well below the road tax exempt threshold of 100g/km – so this 208 becomes the world's greenest standard production model powered by an internal combustion engine.

As before, the new look 208 is offered in three and five-door format and is still probably the best looking car in the supermini segment, underpinned by great practicalities: a big cabin for its size and another of those latter day Peugeot quality interiors.

Rather than the diesel engines that get all the economy plaudits, I prefer the PureTech 1.0-litre three-cylinder petrol unit: low emissions mean you still don't pay road tax but its light weight also enhances the overall nimbleness and response of the 208, which is a lot lighter than the 207 it replaced.



Official fuel consumption for the Jaguar XE range in mpg (1/100km): Urban 24.4-64.2 (11.6-4.4); Extra Urban 46.3-83.1 (6.1-3.4); Combined 34.9-75.0 (8.1-3.8). CO_2 Emissions 194-99 g/km. Official EU Test Figures. For comparison purpose only. Real world figures may differ.
Model shown is an XE S with optional metallic paint Italian Racing Red and optional full width sliding panoramic glass sunroof at £46,495. On the road price is the manufacturers Recommended Retail Price, plus First Registration Fee and Delivery Pack.

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Gills boss all set to add in 'his' choices

Players in and out as Edinburgh stamps his mark on side



PUSHING HIS SIDE: Gillingham's manager Justin Edinburgh has his sights set firmly on next season

Football

By Jamie Weir
jamie.weir@archant.co.uk

FOUR senior Gills players have been let go, as club gaffer, Justin Edinburgh sets his sights on next season.

Danny Galbraith, Gavin Hoyte, Leon Legge and Joe Martin are all to be released when their current contracts expire.

Edinburgh says that the process which led to their letting go wasn't easy, but that it was important for the club to look to the future.

He said: ''There are always tough decisions to be made when releasing players, but in terms of going forwards, I just felt it was the right decision for myself and the club.

''Some of the conversations will remain personal but with the players we let go, we wish them all the best for the future and I certainly feel allowing Gavin Hoyte and Leon Legge to go, were probably some of the toughest decisions I've had to make in my managerial career because they have played the majority of the games since I have taken over.

''I feel that we need to go in a different direction, they were tough decisions but ones which I felt were the right ones to call.''

Edinburgh says that as a new manager for the squad, he is looking forward to making his mark - something he believes could push the promotion chasing Gills higher.

He said: ''It's a chance for me to add my own personnel to this group and if we can get that right then we can be very competitive next season.

''With allowing these players to leave it does free up finances to add to the squad with, hopefully, one or two players coming in.''

The gaffer says that while he has made some approaches, much like his own recruitment, he will hold off on announcements until the ink is dry.

''It's a funny time of the season because there will be lots of clubs looking at certain individuals and I've learned with experience that you keep it to yourself until a signature is put down.

''We've made contacts with the players we would like, some are still involved in playoff competitions, so hopefully we can get a few in sooner rather than later but we need to be patient and diligent in our work.''

Maidstone cap unbeaten season with cup win

MAIDSTONE Rugby Club ended their season on a high note, after winning the RFU Intermediate Cup final when they played against Bridgnorth RFC.

The two teams, both unbeaten, clashed on the hallowed turf of Twickenham – English rugby's spiritual home – last weekend with the Stones taking a 31-18 victory.

The county town club crowned their all-conquering season with the win, which was built on a great display of Maidstone's rugby prowess during the first half.

An early Olly Newton try set the team on their way to a 24-6 half-time lead.

That gave the Stones a strong lead as well as a psychological edge when they went back into the changing room for the break.



WINNERS: Maidstone's players

When they came back out, Eddie Cranston managed to power through for a try within minutes, giving the team a hefty points cushion that enabled them to withstand a late Bridgnorth fightback in the final quarter of the match.

That last minute surge saw Bridgnorth claw back a bit of dignity with a few points scored, but they were unable to make enough headway into Maidstone's relentless and powerful defence.

Maidstone's head coach, Paul Hathaway, says the team performed to the standards demanded by the home of English rugby.

He said: "We came here knowing the pressure of the occasion on a lot of players was going to be immense, but we asked them to try and keep cool heads, try and keep control of the game and keep the tempo up and I couldn't have asked for a better start."

Sport Shorts

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Kent can only manage draw at St Lawrence

KENT'S first home Championship match against Leicestershire ended in a draw despite a valiant but ultimately fruitless run chase.

The result leaves the county side at the bottom of the Division Two table with two defeats and a draw.

Meanwhile, Leicestershire have now not won a Championship match since September 2012.

Leicestershire's second inning finished on 196, leaving Kent a target of 315 from 71 overs.

Daniel Bell-Drummond scored 103 as he and Darren Stevens (34) got Kent to within 66, with seven overs and six wickets to go.

Both the pair fell in consecutive overs and Kent ended the chase on 273-7.

Charlie Shreck (4-75) had removed Matt Coles to leave Kent seven wickets down with 3.5 overs remaining and Leicestershire with a slim chance of victory.

But Sam Billings and Mitchell Claydon batted through to stumps .

Kent's next match is in the County Championship against Glamorgan at the Spitfire Ground this Sunday from 11am.



DRAW: Kent's Sam Northeast bats against Leicestershire



BATTLING FOR THE TITLE: Shakey 'frustrated' after crashing out

Byrne gets back on the podium at Oulton Park

SITTINGBOURNE's British Superbike reigning champion Shane 'Shakey' Byrne got himself back into a podium spot taking third in his first race at Oulton Park.

However he couldn't manage to take victory in the second race after crashing out while battling rival Ryuichi 'Kiyo' Kiyonari.

Shakey, who said the crash 'frustrated him', explained: ''I tried to get a bit of a gap for the first part of the lap and then I went into Hizzys chicane and for a moment I thought I had just run in with a bit too much back brake on and spun the bike.

''Then as I was rolling through the grass I noticed Kiyo's bike come flying passed and I thought 'ah, that wasn't the case'. It is what it is.''

The rider has only just got back to full strength after a crash in Spain during pre-season testing. Despite this latest smash Shakey says he's already moved on, with his bike 'better than its been all year'.

He said: ''I felt I had that win in the bag but hopefully now we can be back where we need to be at Snetterton.''

GT cars roar into Brands Hatch

GT CARS from Audi, Bentley, BMW, Ferrari, Lamborghini, McLaren, Mercedes-Benz and Nissan will be blasting around Brands Hatch's Grand Prix circuit this weekend.

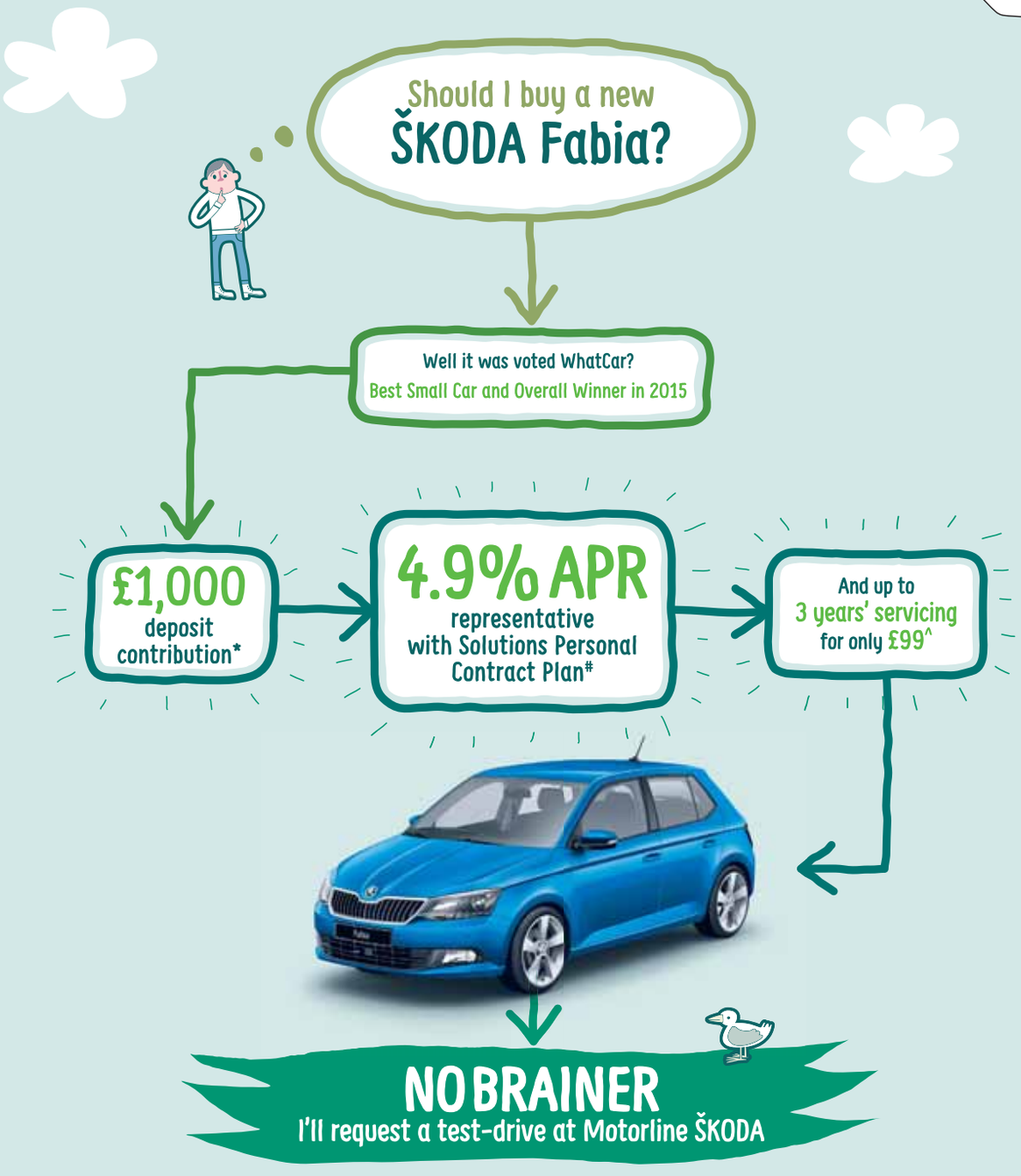
The Wrotham-based track is hosting a round of the international Blancpain GT race series, with supporting races for the MINI Challenge, Sports 2000 Le Mans-style racers and Mazda MX-5 roadsters.

There will also be a display of more than 100 supercars and a free pitwalk and autograph session on Sunday morning.

Tickets for the Blancpain GT Series on May 9 and 10 are available on the gate from £14, with free entry for under-13s. Call 0843 453 9000.

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